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ILLINOIS STATE

Inspirational journey

Alumna Wonsook Kim came to ISU as a poor international student. Now an acclaimed artist, she has transformed the College of Fine Arts.



RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu

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FirstWord

Serving as president of Illinois State opens doors

of opportunity to become deeply involved in all facets of the University. Interacting with those who have a Redbird connection is part of the job, and without a doubt one of the most enjoyable aspects. Beyond learning more about campus life across eras, I am blessed to witness how the learning, teaching, and engagement that defines the ISU experience shapes the future of individuals.

Throughout the Redbirds Rising campaign, I have also heard from countless grateful graduates who share with me their story of all the ways financial help cleared the

path for their future. There are no words to adequately describe the joy and satisfaction that comes from seeing individuals invest in the lives of others. I am fortunate to witness the happiness this investment gives the donor and recipient.

Wonsook Kim is a three-degree graduate whose story of how scholarships have enormous impact is among the most unique and exceptional. As you will learn in reading this issue of *Illinois State*, Wonsook could not have enrolled at the University if she had not received a tuition waiver to study outside her homeland of Korea.



She would not have benefited from the direction of School of Art faculty, who guided her to pursue the dream of becoming a professional artist. She would not have been able to settle in New York City to fuel her passion as a painter in the 1970s, but for a \$500 scholarship received upon graduation.

While not an enormous amount of money, those dollars were just what Wonsook needed to launch a career so successful that her work has expanded to include sculpting. She has garnered international acclaim, with her art shown in several countries.

What I find as remarkable as her ability to complete nearly 70 solo exhibitions across the globe and continue creating at a prolific level is the fact that her fame has only reinforced a deep gratitude for Illinois State, and the financial support she received decades ago. Now in a position to be that donor who empowers students, Wonsook and her husband Thomas Clement have made a \$12 million investment in the College of Fine Arts and the School of Art. Both have been named in her honor. Wonsook is as humble and visionary as she is generous.

Her remarkable story is an example of what happens when investments are made to better the lives of others, who then continue the cycle of giving. The end result? Redbirds rise!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Larry H. Dietz". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "L" and "D".

Larry H. Dietz, Ph.D.
President, Illinois State University



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Let us hear from you! Readers are encouraged to provide feedback on each issue of *Illinois State*. Share your thoughts on ISU's Facebook page, through [Twitter.com/IllinoisStateU](https://twitter.com/IllinoisStateU), or contact Susan Blystone at sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu. Use the email address to submit class notes, How We Met and Legacy stories, as well as to suggest retirees for the Where Are They Now column.

ILLINOIS STATE

Volume 20, Number 3, November 2019

FEATURES

- 8 Amazing success story**
Wonsook Kim arrived on campus from Korea too poor to pay for a meal plan. Her skills matched her passion, allowing Kim to become an internationally acclaimed artist. She credits ISU's College of Fine Arts and School of Art for her success. Both have been renamed in her honor to recognize a \$12 million gift Kim and her husband, Thomas Clement, made to the fine arts' programs.
- 14 Tailored bedside teaching**
Megan Nickels, M.S. '12, Ph.D. '15, has a passion for meeting the academic needs of children sidelined from learning because of illness. She created a virtual reality curriculum for hospitalized patients from ages 3 to 21 that ties learning experiences to each person's condition.
- 18 Sound the alarm**
Associate Professor of Geology Catherine O'Reilly is an aquatic ecologist known internationally as an expert in freshwater ecology. She is part of a team of scientists given a Nobel Peace Prize for their work that supports the need to warn about the irreversible danger to global ecosystems caused by rising temperatures.
- 24 Still blazing a trail**
It's been a century since women gained the right to vote with passage of the 19th Amendment. Alumna Michelle Buckwalter-Schurman '92 is proud of how women have become political leaders since. She holds a national leadership position in the effort to recruit female candidates.

DEPARTMENTS

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On the cover: Had it not been for private financial support, Wonsook Kim would not have had the money to attend Illinois State. She is thrilled that her significant gift will create opportunities for current and future art students to pursue their dream of an ISU education.



Expanding housing

Plans developing for new residence hall project

The University is moving forward with efforts to construct a residence hall that will add between 800 and 1,200 beds, and anticipates having the building ready for use by fall 2021. The structure will be located where Atkin-Colby and Hamilton-Whitten residence halls once stood, *shown above*.

The need for additional housing was confirmed through a campus study completed in 2018. Findings showed that as a result of aging residence halls being demolished in recent years, Illinois State no longer has enough on-campus housing to accommodate sophomores. They and freshmen are mandated to live in university housing, however, many sec-

ond-year students are given exemptions because of a space shortage.

Halls that remain on campus are Watterson Towers, Hewett-Manchester, and Tri-Towers. When including Cardinal Court, there are about 6,000 students from the enrollment of more than 20,000 who live in facilities owned by the University.

The new housing initiative took a major step forward at the start of the fall semester, when the University awarded \$100 million to Gilbane Development Company of Rhode Island to develop the public/private partnership project. Gilbane will fund the building through investors. The University will lease the

land for up to 30 years, with the option to buy out the lease.

The strategy allows for construction without the use of state funds, student fees, or tuition dollars. ISU used the same approach to build Cardinal Court, which opened in 2012 and is now owned by the University.

Plans are far from finalized, meaning an accurate estimate of total cost is not available as negotiations continue with Gilbane. The firm has a national track record for such projects, having constructed student housing at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Iowa State University, and the University of Missouri.

Enrollment record set

A total of 3,860 freshmen enrolled at ISU for the academic year, setting a record for the largest freshman class since 1986. The entire campus student body numbered 20,878, up from 20,635 last fall. Of the total, 18,250 are undergraduates.

Within the freshmen cohort, 32 percent are from traditionally underrepresented groups. That number is 26 percent for the entire student body. Enrollment is up for African American, Hispanic, and international students.

The academic quality of the freshman class remains strong, with a high school GPA of 3.48 on a 4.0 scale. There are 441 students in the Honors Program, making it the largest incoming class of Honors students in ISU history.

Four-legged officer added to ISU Police Department

The newest recruit to ISU's Police Department is paid in treats, toys, and scratches behind the ears. "Pawfficer" Sage is a 2-year-old black Labrador serving as a community engagement dog with campus police. Sage will bridge the gap between police and the community.

"It's unique in the sense that there aren't a lot of police departments that use a dog for engagement purposes," Police Chief Aaron Woodruff said. Sage has helped officers connect with students since starting on the job in July. A crowd-funding campaign generated the \$4,000 needed to complete Sage's training.

"Fortunately for us, Sage is very social," Woodruff said, emphasizing that she belongs to the ISU community. She lives in the Nelson Smith Building, where the police department is housed, but is a constant presence on campus. Officers walk Sage daily among students, encouraging them to greet her. She is also present at events such as Festival ISU.

Professor creates course, joins elite faculty group

Associate Professor of Philosophy Daniel Breyer joins the ranks of top faculty



Sage, a 2-year-old black Labrador, is working with ISU's Police Department as a community engagement dog.

around the globe after being selected by The Great Courses to create a lecture series titled "Understanding the Dark Side of Human Nature."

The Great Courses invites only 1 percent of the world's college professors to help create content. Breyer's course was released during the summer, and is available for purchase online.

The 24-part series offers different philosophical and religious traditions while exploring difficult issues tied to the human condition, such as evil, death, forgiveness and redemption.

"I wanted to pick a variety of topics that would help explore what I think of as the fragile underbelly of humanity," said Breyer, who is the director of ISU's Religious Studies Program.

His scholarly work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and has appeared in top journals such as *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. A recipient of ISU's Outstanding University Teaching Award, Breyer is working on a new theory of moral responsibility.

Circus in Macy's parade

Members of Gamma Phi Circus will perform in the 93rd Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City on November 28. The event will be broadcast live by the NBC network.

The parade appearance is another highlight of the 90th anniversary year for Gamma Phi, which was established in 1929 by Clifford "Pop" Horton as a gymnastics fraternity. It is the nation's oldest collegiate circus.

Giving milestone set during last fiscal year

A university record of more than \$37.3 million in private support was raised during the fiscal year that ended in June. It was the second time more than \$36 million was collected in the past four years, and the fifth consecutive fiscal year of raising more than \$21 million.

"Illinois State benefactors responded to the call to invest in the University with enthusiasm and unwavering sup-

Where are they now?

Frank Suggs had envisioned being a teacher since he was a teenager. He pursued that dream by studying music education at the University of Arizona as an undergraduate. His interests were both vocal and piano performance. The degree prepared him to teach music for 10 years in the state, with his first job on a Navajo reservation.

"That was the only place black people could teach at that time," said Suggs, who left the state to pursue graduate studies at the University of Indiana. A graduate faculty member suggested he explore job opportunities at Illinois State University.

Suggs arrived on campus in 1970 and began teaching music education courses in the Department of Music within the College of Fine Arts. The University had just begun efforts to recruit black students, and he was one of few minority faculty members at the time.

"I was asked to put something together for black students," Suggs recalled, saying he appreciated the opportunity to help build the University's music education program. He became known locally for directing "Birmingham-A Sing for Peace."

Beyond forming creative art ensembles, he created African American music history classes that became popular courses. "I worked mainly with undergraduate students, and I enjoyed teaching," said Suggs, who saw significant growth at the University and within the college during his 30 years at Illinois State. "I'm glad I went the education route. It was a good time, as we always had quality students."

Suggs retired in 1999 and moved with his wife, Jimella, to Tennessee. He remained active presenting choral music workshops, music industry seminars, and presentations on history represented through music. He worked with the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music organization for years, ultimately serving as president.

Another passion Suggs pursued in retirement was sharing his faith, as he engaged in street ministry. Now at age 83, he travels less but still enjoys quality time with his children and numerous grandchildren.

Suggs can be reached at fsuggs1@comcast.net or by mail at 1201 Mary Jane Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, 38116.



port," said President Larry Dietz. He noted that the private support bolsters student scholarships, program enhancements, faculty support, and facility improvements.

Gifts and commitments during fiscal year 2019 propelled the University past the \$150 million goal for Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State, months before the fundraising effort ends in June. More than 52,000 donors have committed resources in excess of \$164 million.

Highlights of the fiscal year include 42 new endowments, cash received exceeding \$16.3 million, and \$10.7 million in scholarship support. Private donations have strengthened the University's endowment as well, which grew to more than \$140 million.

"Our record-setting fundraising year shows the confidence and affinity our donors have for this institution," University Advancement Vice President Pat Vickerman said. "There's clearly tremendous momentum, and we are going to keep it moving forward."

ISU prepares to open local business incubator

A new technology-focused incubator operated by the University will give students, faculty, and community members support to develop ideas into a business and test their concepts. The Board of Trustees approved a five-year lease at an Uptown Normal location for the startup incubator that will be the first of its kind at ISU.

"It's a dedicated space that brings together entrepreneurs, startup businesses, and the local community to incubate new ideas, innovations, and businesses," President Larry Dietz said.

The University will create partnerships to make the project successful. Among them will potentially be the Economic Development Council; Small Business Development Center at Illinois Wesleyan University; Heartland Community College; the Town of Normal; McLean County Chamber of Commerce; and ISU's Center of Mathematics, Science, and Technology.

The College of Business will be a major contributor in the project, which is not ISU's first attempt at small-business economic development. The Center for Emerging Entrepreneurs was a virtual incubator opened from 2011 until 2013, when federal funding ended. The college's Illinois Small Business Development Center ran from 2005 into 2016. The center closed when required state funds were no longer available.

International study trips, options steadily increase

A record number of Redbirds gleaned lessons from across the globe during the 2018-2019 academic year. Nearly 700 Illinois State students traveled and studied abroad.

Of that number, 534 opted for a shorter program led by faculty members for eight weeks or less versus an entire semester of learning overseas. There were 42 study options offered by professors.

The Office of International Studies and Programs (OISP) has been concentrating more resources to faculty-led programs, including a number of grants that promote the development of study abroad programs led by faculty.

“Students and parents are more comfortable knowing that a faculty member is leading the program, as opposed to the students going on their own or with third-party providers,” said OISP Director Luis Canales. This is especially true for students who have never left the country.

Institute created from couple's generous gift

In appreciation for their alma mater and to foster innovation on campus, Steve '73 and Sharon Hagge '73 have given a \$1 million gift that will support student learning and leadership opportunities.

The couple established the Stephen and Sharon Hagge Innovation Institute, which will be based out of the College of Business, but is intended to foster innovation throughout campus.

“We're proud to be able to support Illinois State,” Steve said. “Our hope is that the institute is a way to bring people together across the University and across many disciplines. We want to help students become more innovative before they go out into the working world.”

The gift will create and support operations associated with the institute, including but not limited to experiential learning opportunities, innovation

awards, space renovation, and staff support. College Dean Ajay Samant expects students' competency in change management will increase, and that Illinois State will gain an advantage in recruiting students.

The Haggess met on their first day of class at Illinois State and were married on graduation day four years later. Sharon majored in special education and taught 23 years. Steve studied accounting and retired as president and CEO of AptarGroup Inc.

In 2013, they established the Stephen Hagge Faculty Accounting Award, which honors faculty within the Accounting Department.

Find campus history through *Vidette* archive

Ongoing efforts to expand digital archives of *The Vidette* are making it easier for alums to trace ISU's history. *The Vidette* Newspaper Archive at Milner Library now holds 47,055 digitized pages and contains 4,622 issues from 93 volumes. That equates to all issues through December 1980.

“We're excited to have additional issues added to our database,” University Archivist April Anderson-Zorn said. She sees the archive as a wonderful resource in providing answers to the community's university history questions.

“It is interesting to look back and see how the campus reacted to major national and international news stories,” Anderson-Zorn said. “There is so much great history to be found in the database.”

The plan is to continue adding volumes of *The Vidette* to the digital collection through present day. Access to the archive is through Milner Library's website at Library.IllinoisState.edu/Collections/Vidette.

National honor received for stellar counseling

The University's Student Counseling Services has been given the 2019 Excellence in Group Practice Award by the

American Psychological Association. The award recognizes ISU's dedication to providing excellence in group therapy.

“We offer more groups than many other centers at universities across the nation. In addition, we train our doctoral interns and externs in the practice of group psychotherapy,” Student Counseling Services Director Sandy Colbs said. She noted that ISU's group therapy programs are popular with students and typically fill.

The University's work is now seen as a model for other counseling centers. Colbs has served as a consultant and trainer to develop group psychotherapy programs.

“It can be difficult to build a group program because most clients come in to the center expecting and preferring to receive individual therapy,” Colbs said, “yet groups are an effective and efficient way to deliver clinical services.”

Individual counseling is available as well, with the University also offering psychiatric consultations to help students with issues related to their medication. Student Counseling Services are offered without charge to students.

ISU changes tagline

After years of using “State Your Passion” as a marketing tagline, the University introduced during the fall semester “Create Your Legacy” as the new approach to capture the attention of prospective students.

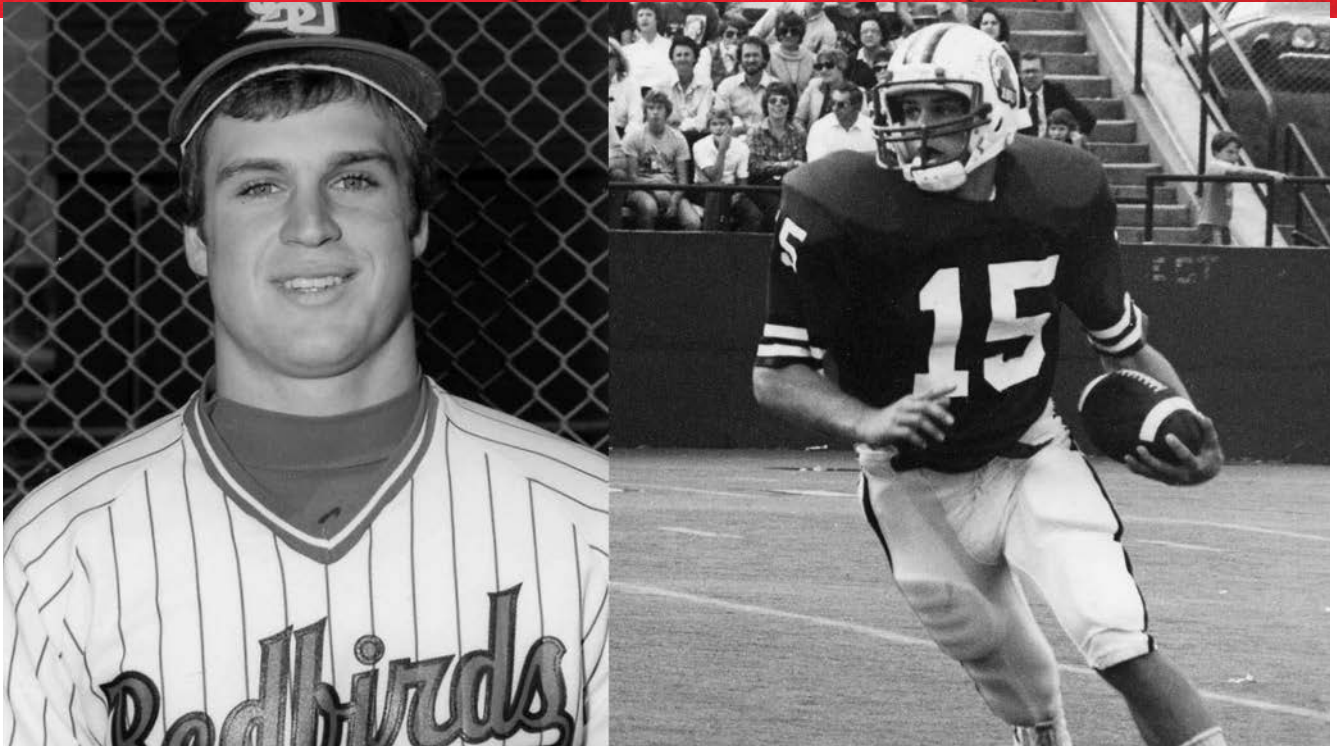
The new wordmark is being used as part of the University's communications initiatives, on digital screens in ISU buildings, and on banners placed across campus. It is a key element in the outreach through Admissions.

“Prospective students are looking for a place where they feel at home, and where they can begin to pave their own path forward,” said Dillon Maher '17, communications specialist for Admissions. He helped create the tagline that highlights how ISU gives students the tools and skills to build their future.



Sharon '73 and Steve Hagge '73

Redbird Athletics



Success celebrated

Dual-sport alumnus chosen for Valley Hall of Fame

Former two-sport ISU star Mike Prior '85 will be inducted into the Missouri Valley Conference Hall of Fame class of 2020 in March, becoming the 14th Illinois State athlete bestowed the honor.

A student-athlete between 1981 and 1985, Prior lettered three years in baseball and four times in football as one of the best all-around athletes in school history.

On the diamond, he was a two-time All-MVC selection. His ISU career records in batting average at .388 and slugging percentage of .715 still stand.

In football, Prior holds the ISU career record for interceptions with 23, and ranks second in the team's record books with three career punt return

touchdowns. He graduated as the all-time leader in punt return yards with 906, a campus record that still stands. His jersey number, 15, is one of only three retired in the Redbird football program.

"Mike was a tremendous multi-sport student-athlete," said Athletics Director Larry Lyons. "He is easily one of the greatest athletes to ever compete for the Redbirds or any MVC school."

Prior is one of three student-athletes in ISU history to be drafted by two professional sport leagues. He was selected in the fourth round of the MLB Draft by the Los Angeles Dodgers, and the seventh round of the NFL Draft by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

His illustrious 13-year NFL career with Tampa Bay, Indianapolis, and Green

Bay is decorated with 691 tackles, 35 interceptions, and 7 forced fumbles. He played in the Super Bowl twice with Green Bay, which took the win in 1997.

"I'm extremely honored," said Prior, who was inducted into the Illinois State Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame in 1991 and now works for the Indianapolis Colts as the Youth Football Commissioner.

"I will be forever grateful to Illinois State for taking a chance on me, when there weren't many other offers out there," Prior said, "and giving me the opportunity to play both football and baseball for the Redbirds."

Couple receives highest Redbird honor

Bloomington residents Dave and Jane Kruger are the 2019 recipients of the Joseph F. Warner Golden Redbird Award. It is the highest honor bestowed to a donor of Athletics and recognizes individuals dedicated to the Weisbecker Scholarship Fund.

The award named for the late Joe Warner recognizes financial support, as well as exemplary service and leadership in ISU Athletics.

“While recognition has never been a driving force for the Krugers, their

actions exemplify everything this award represents,” Assistant Athletics Director of Development Sean Johnson said. “We can’t thank them enough for their commitment to Illinois State Athletics.”

Dave is a veterinarian and owns Kruger Animal Hospital. He and Jane have contributed to the scholarship fund for more than three decades, while supporting facility enhancements and campaigns. They are enthusiastic fans, following the Redbirds on the road.



Football team faces Illini in the fall of 2020 season

Redbird fans will want to cheer for Illinois State’s football team as it takes on University of Illinois players September 5, 2020. The competition will be in Champaign. The two teams last met in 2009, with the Illini taking the win.

The Illini play in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS). It is considered the highest level of collegiate play. Illinois State is in the Football Championship Conference, which allows fewer scholarships than the FBS.

Other Big Ten Conference football games scheduled are ISU against Wisconsin in 2022 and the University of Iowa in August 2024.

Be a part of Illinois State’s home court advantage.

Men’s and women’s basketball tickets are on sale now. Visit GoRedbirds.com/Tickets or call (309) 438-8000.

ISU Hall of Fame 2019 inductees selected

Four alums were inducted into the Illinois State Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame during Homecoming. They are Osiris Eldridge, Cathy (Olson) George ’85, Kevin Glenn, and Katie Jean ’13.

Eldridge joined the men’s basketball team in the 2006-2007 season, and was named the MVC Freshman of the Year. He was an All-MVC First-Team selection three times and is fifth on ISU’s scoring list. He has played in the Turkish Basketball Super League since 2010.

While on the volleyball team, George was a four-year letterwinner. She helped the Redbirds win three consecutive MVC conference titles that led to consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. She has

been the Michigan State University head volleyball coach since 2005.

Glenn helped the Redbird football team to its first two playoff appearances in school history in 1998 and 1999. A three-time All-MVC selection, he set 25 school records at ISU. He retired this year from the Canadian Football League after 18 seasons.

Jean was a three-time All-MVC selection as a member of the golf team, and medaled twice at the MVC Championships. She was named to the MVC Conference Women’s Golf 25-Year Team. She turned professional upon graduation.

Beer and wine offered to arena, stadium fans

With the start of the fall football season, Athletics began to sell beer and wine at public concessions stands within Hancock Stadium. Both will also be sold to individuals over the age of 21 at Redbird Arena as well. Previously alcohol was only available to fans in limited premium seating areas.

Athletics Director Larry Lyons noted that many public universities allow alcohol sales, which is increasingly becoming standard across the country. He expects having the option for the beverages will boost attendance and may increase revenue from concessions as well.

Lyons emphasized that the primary motivation for the change, however, is to make each game day experience even more enjoyable for Redbirds fans as they cheer on ISU’s football and basketball teams.





DRAWN_{to} Excellence

ARTIST TRACES HER GLOBAL FAME TO ISU

by Susan Marquardt Blystone

Wonsook Kim is true to her name, which in Korean means “seer.” A native of the eastern Asian country, she is a prolific artist who conveys the beauty and conflict she observes in daily life—forcing contemplation of both through drawings, paintings and sculptures that are simplistic in form yet complex in meaning.

Kim has reached the pinnacle of the art world because of her ability to see opportunity and seize it through a determination and diligent work ethic that have defined her character since childhood. Raised in a family with seven siblings, Kim lived in poverty that she escaped with financial support from Illinois State, allowing her to complete three art degrees. A scholarship at graduation gave Kim \$500 needed to make New York City her home.

It was from there she launched a career literally drawn from her appreciation and knowledge of nature, global cultures, personal experiences, and the human spirit. She is represented by six galleries, including ones in Korea, Paris, New York, and Chicago. She has done 67 solo exhibitions across the globe, and continues to faithfully work eight-hour days in studios at her homes in New York City and Bloomington, Indiana.

Kim has reaped the fruits of her labor and that of her entrepreneurial husband, Thomas Clement, resulting in a wealth she never envisioned acquiring but has no desire to keep. Having experienced the power of others investing in their lives, the couple made a transformational gift of \$12 million to Illinois State that was announced in September.

In appreciation for the significant financial support that will empower students for generations to come, the University’s College of Fine Arts and School of Art have been named the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts and the Wonsook Kim School of Art. The honor is not seen by Kim as an opportunity to boast, but rather share her journey and allow others to envision what powerful possibilities exist in their own lives.

“This is not for my ego or a career dream. I rather see my name as a symbol that stands for America as a land of opportunity,” Kim said. “The gift to the University is a continuation of my American story as a poor, young girl who came to this country and grabbed every opportunity available.”

Kim was born in 1953 as the Korean War was ending. “Everybody was poor, so poverty was not a shame. Everybody had to share everything,” she recalled from her childhood. That was particularly the case in her large family led by parents who met at church. Both were accomplished classical musicians, with her father



Wonsook Kim and her husband, Thomas Clement, shown in their Indiana home. She donated to the University her work in the background, from the series “Till We Have Faces.”

a journalist and managing editor of the *Kyunghyang Daily* newspaper. Together the couple created a loving, disciplined, and religious home life for Kim and her siblings, all of whom excelled academically and in music.

“I was not good at school and was not musical,” Kim recalled, which gave her a freedom to draw. “I had always wanted to be either an artist or a writer.” Inspiration for her earliest creations

ally well by the time she finished a year at Hongik University in Seoul.

Her next goal was to gain an advanced art education in America, despite lacking the money to study abroad. Although accepted to several schools, including Yale and Berkeley, Kim chose to attend Illinois State because the University offered her a full scholarship. She arrived at the age of 19 as the College of Fine Art’s only Asian student in 1972,

put her skill level above those ahead of her in the undergraduate program. They were all learning in an era when abstract expressionism was popular. Kim remembers classes that involved splashing paint on a canvas, then rolling or stepping through it to convey emotion. The process frustrated her, as she had developed a calligraphic style dependent on a mastery of lines and detail. Kim credits Boyd with affirming that such drawings were an art form worthy of pursuit.

Boyd arrived at ISU in the 1960s with the charge of developing the college’s drawing classes. He also started a printmaking program. Kim was well into her undergraduate degree by the time she enrolled in one of Boyd’s classes. He remembers seeing at the table where Kim was working a program from a

“THE GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY IS A CONTINUATION OF MY AMERICAN STORY AS A POOR, YOUNG GIRL WHO CAME TO THIS COUNTRY AND GRABBED EVERY OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE.”

came from Christian bible stories and Korean folk tales shared by her grandmothers. Kim sketched the characters while listening.

She illustrated her life events in diaries as she aged into high school, where her interest in Western art traditions blossomed. So did her abilities. Kim vividly remembers enduring months of rigorous training in fundamental artistic skills.

“We drew one egg for an entire semester, then two eggs,” Kim said, admitting initial frustration over the tedious exercise that she later came to appreciate. The assignments gave her a solid sense of composition, shadows, and relationships between objects. She consequently knew how to draw exception-

ally well by the time she finished a year at Hongik University in Seoul.

Although Kim had studied English while in Korea, her ability to communicate was minimal. “I think of silent movies when I remember my earliest days at Illinois State,” she said with her infectious smile. “My professors were talking, but it meant nothing to me.” The language barrier did not, however, hinder Kim’s ability to learn from faculty who she credits with defining her artistic path. Among them were Ken Holder, Harold Gregor, Rodney Carswell, and Harold Boyd.

“They were surprised that I already had the tools to be able to draw anything,” Kim said, as her rigid training

performance of Mozart’s *Requiem* she had attended.

“I looked down and saw where she had taken a ball point pen and drawn little figures. I said to her, ‘You know that you can turn that into your art,’” Boyd recalled. “Characteristic of my teaching was to give permission, to let students find who they are. I saw her raw talent.”

The words of encouragement were all Kim needed to cement a path that led to phenomenal success, which did not surprise Boyd. “She arrived at ISU committed to be an artist. She was a worker who was 100 percent self-motivated, and she has always been prolific,” he said. “She arrived as a new student, but not in the same sense as other students coming



It was a day of celebration as President Larry Dietz announced the largest outright gift commitment in ISU history during a September event.

TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT

Illinois State University's arts programs have been permanently elevated as a result of a \$12 million investment made by Wonsook Kim '75, M.A. '76, M.F.A. '78, honorary doctorate '19. Announced in September during a celebration of Kim's accomplishments and philanthropic spirit, the gift will be recognized forever on campus with the naming of the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts and the Wonsook Kim School of Art.

"It is an honor for Illinois State to bear Wonsook Kim's name. Her name represents the endless possibilities our students encounter on campus, and the success that comes from their hard work and perseverance," President Larry Dietz said. "Wonsook's and Thomas's gift will allow us to create positive change that will enhance the University for years to come."

"Wonsook Kim's generous gifts and personal investment in Illinois State University's College of Fine Arts and School of Art are truly transformational for students, faculty, staff, and the entire community," said College Dean Jean Miller. "The college will be radically changed due to the impact of her philanthropy."

Miller and Michael Wille, director of the art school, are grateful and energized by what is planned for the funding. Three endowed art professorships honoring Kim's past faculty will be established in the names of Harold Boyd, Ken Holder and Harold Gregor. New classrooms, art studios, instruments, and equipment will be purchased.

Student scholarships will be enriched, as well as faculty research and creative projects that include international travel,

guest artists, and study at archeological and conservation sites. Miller anticipates the generous donation will also help the College become an All-Steinway program, which has been an ongoing initiative.

Wille is thrilled that graduate students will benefit with the creation of a wing for those pursuing their master's degrees. They are now separated from campus, working in a downtown Bloomington studio. Beyond the logistical improvements, he appreciates that the college and school will benefit greatly from the fact Kim's art is internationally renowned and praised.

The prestige will motivate students, who Kim eagerly meets and encourages on a personal level. They will find inspiration in viewing her work on campus, as Kim has donated a large collection of her paintings and sculptures to the University for display. One bronze wall sculpture titled "The Gift" was created specifically for the Center for Performing Arts' entrance.

"We are honored that Wonsook Kim has entrusted us with her artworks, and are humbled to be stewards of her legacy," Miller said. "She is a visionary, a guide, and an inspiration to us all."

"Gifts of this magnitude propel Illinois State forward and continue to enhance our already thriving institution," University Advancement Vice President Pat Vickerman said. "As we near the end of the Redbirds Rising campaign, we are grateful for visionary donors, like Wonsook and Thomas, who allow us to dream bigger and pursue excellence at Illinois State."



Kim created a bronze sculpture titled “The Gift” for installation in the Center for Performing Arts.

to the University. She came as a very trained and educated person.”

Initially focused on black and white drawings, Kim learned how to widen her lines with brushes while at ISU. She also became skilled in printmaking, enriching her work unintentionally through a need to be frugal.

“Metal was expensive. A lot of students would work on a plate, make pictures, and abandon the metal. Kim used a tool to scrape it clean and use it as a new plate so she didn’t have to spend more money,” Boyd recalled. The result was a faded scratching back-ground on finished pieces that added texture to her art.

“Money has been a consistent issue throughout my life. My parents were not wealthy, so I needed a job,” said Kim, who lived in Fell Hall. She walked into the Burger King adjacent to campus and was hired to work the drive-up window. Repeating orders was a comical impossibility, so she switched to the cleaning crew. In that role she was able to save from the garbage Whopper sandwiches that had been tossed after the allotted time in serving bins expired.

“I didn’t have a meal plan at ISU. I would eat burgers for two meals each day,” Kim said. She shared the food with other international students, quickly becoming popular among them as “the Whopper girl.” She later worked at Milner Library, all while taking a full load of

classes. “I studied a lot more than other students because I had to keep my GPA up or lose the money to attend school.”

Kim finished her bachelor’s degree, then earned a master’s and a master’s of fine art degree. To fulfill an MFA requirement, Kim created an installation called “Normal Experience.” The work was a 118-foot-long painting on paper that reached nearly to the ceiling of ISU’s University Galleries and covered each of its walls. The piece was obtained by the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Seoul, Korea.

With her studies completed in 1978, Kim decided to live in the hub of budding artists and moved to New York. She relocated using money received from the Elizabeth Stein Scholarship Award. “It took guts for her to get that last degree and then hike off to New York,” Boyd said. “She did a very courageous thing.”

Success did not come immediately or easily. For eight years, she worked a variety of day jobs that ranged from serving as a court interpreter to clerical assignments. “I did my painting at night,” said Kim, who managed the load because she is a self-described workaholic. “I am addicted to being busy.”

She began introducing color into her art, increasingly building name recognition and respect for her work. Her earliest shows were in Korea, Tokyo, and Japan, followed by Germany, Bulgaria, Brazil, Mexico, and Madrid. In America,

where she gained citizenship in 1979, Kim’s art has been displayed from New York to Normal, Chicago, and Los Angeles. She was named the Artist of the Year by the United Nations in 1995.

In the decades since, she began working in bronze to create sculptures that are as mesmerizing for their shape as the shadow each casts. She gathers ideas from all that she sees around her, drawing thoughts in sketch books that are always with her and piled high on her studio shelves.

All of her creations demonstrate what has been her strength since she began to perfect her craft at Illinois State, as they represent emotion and insights from her own life. For example, Kim’s series titled “Sparkling Light” was inspired by her mother’s death. Dots of white or yellow light added across each image demonstrate the comfort of knowing our loved ones always surround us.

“People don’t have to know what each piece means or all the details, as long as they catch the sentiment that life is beautiful and worth living abundantly,” Kim said. She describes her art as a practice of emptying herself, with her goal being to make every creation represent a celebration of life.

“If I can make someone look at things a bit differently, brighten their outlook, make them think in a different way or appreciate what they see around them, that’s a great success. I want to be inspirational,” Kim said.

There is no question she has obtained that goal, certainly at Illinois State, where she was inducted into the College of Fine Arts’ Hall of Fame in 2010 and received an honorary doctorate at Founders Day in 2019. She was celebrated again in September at the event announcing her recent gift, which is not Kim’s first. She established the Wonsook Kim Art Scholarship in 2015 to encourage students.

Doing more for the University has always been a hope for Kim, who remains grateful for how she was embraced on campus with open arms and given abundant help, both academically

and financially. Her husband is equally thrilled to support the University, as he too has been blessed by others who invested in his life.

A Korean War orphan fathered by an American soldier, Clement was left on the streets to fend for himself in his childhood. Adopted by an American family through a Korean orphanage, he was raised in Massachusetts. Clement went on to become a medical device inventor who holds 47 U.S. patents and started a laparoscopy equipment company. The sale of his business resulted

in funds that the couple use to continue their philanthropic endeavors, including humanitarian work in Korea. Both delight in having the means to lift up others.

“I see money as a tool to get things done. It is only good when you can stay on top of it and can use it. I don’t want to become a slave to it or worry about money,” Kim said. “It is better to not have money around, and instead to have it in use where it does good for others.”

Kim admits her thinking may perplex some, given she and her husband

were once beggars on the street. What those pondering individuals do not realize is that as with everything else in her life, Kim sees beyond herself.

She sees the dreams and struggles of art students, and knows how her investment in their college years will change the trajectory of their future. Ultimately, Kim sees another opportunity and, staying true to herself, she has once again seized it.

INTERPRETING THE ARTWORK OF ALUMNA WONSOOK KIM

ISU Art Professor Emeritus Harold Boyd has a unique understanding of Wonsook Kim’s talent, having been her earliest mentor and still a close friend. He describes her work as intentionally autobiographical and inviting because of a simplicity that is deceptive.

“One reason people have an affection for her work is that when initially looking at it, her pieces appear simple, which is why most people underappreciate her art,” Boyd said. “Once you study the qualities, an enormous amount of content comes through, and it becomes clear that less is more.”

In-depth meaning is conveyed through Kim’s perfection of recurrent and existential symbols, such as a craft on water, a shelter, and figures interacting with shadows or traversing an object. Each is found throughout work inspired by Korean culture, poetry, human relationships, and all life brings—from joy to heartache. The series “In the Garden” depicts the bliss of Kim’s life with spouse Thomas Clement, while the collection titled “A Man With a Cane” evolved from the loss of her brother-in-law to cancer. The force of nature is a consistent element regardless of the story being told.

“I start by making drawings from everyday scenery, like making a shopping list, like writing a diary. As always, simple drawings come alive to become different works—some as colorful paintings, others as sculptures, and some fall flat on paper,” Kim said.

Much of her art speaks directly to women, including “Shadow Child.” The painting shows a female figure standing alone with her shadow holding an infant. The image speaks to every woman who has lost a child, as do others in the same series titled “Wings of Grace.”

“There are subtle signals of feeling the viewer must look for in Kim’s work,” Boyd said. Studying just the tones she selects and how the colors relate within a given piece or throughout a series forces a reflection of abstract ideas.

Regardless of how a viewer interprets Kim’s creations, there is an inevitable and gripping sense of beauty, elegance, and emotion conveyed. Her visual universe enriches the world for all who make the effort to see the meaning within her work, which creates a pathway to deeper insight.

“Art makes you think about things you didn’t consider before,” Kim said. “It enriches life and takes you to another dimension that the written language is not going to go near, and this is a fantastic place to be.”



Titles of the prints from top to bottom: “Crossing the River,” “Watering in the Garden,” “Forest Scenes II—The Muse”



Different **KIND** of cure

BY KATE ARTHUR

Alum's academy teaches critically ill children

On her first day as a volunteer in a children's hospital, Megan Nickels walked into a room where a 14-year-old girl was recovering from brain surgery. Carrying a packet of worksheets, the math teacher thought they'd study fractions.

What she found instead was chaos. The family spoke Spanish, and Nickels did not.

Two preschoolers were playing with loud toys, the TV was blaring, and the medical staff came in to do rounds. Nickels had barely introduced herself when the patient was given a painful injection and started to cry.

Nickels was still standing there with her worksheets, finally brave enough to slide one near the child. "No" was the response, and Nickels left. That was her





Megan Nickels is founder of PedsAcademy at Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando, Florida. The pediatric school is believed to be the first of its kind, offering children with chronic and critical illnesses lessons through robotics and virtual reality. (All photos provided by University of Central Florida)

first rejection of many. Sometimes she'd hear the word before crossing the room's threshold. Not surprisingly, children undergoing chemotherapy or recovering from open heart surgery have no interest in learning about equations.

The former elementary school teacher volunteered at the hospital because she was working on her Ph.D. in mathematics education at Illinois State after having earned her master's degree in elementary and middle school math education. She missed working with children, and was passionate in helping those sidelined from their education by illness keep pace with their learning.

While driving home from a day of visits, she remembered her childhood grade school used a computer program to teach math. An internet search took her to LEGO Mindstorms, and she purchased a robotics kit. The next day she asked her student if she wanted to build a robot. That changed everything. The child's interest blossomed, as did an idea that Nickels cultivated for seven years

before creating a teaching curriculum designed for hospitalized patients from ages 3 to 21.

Nickels, M.S. '12, Ph.D. '15, is founder and faculty director of PedsAcademy at Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando, Florida. The pediatric school that opened in fall 2018 is believed to be the only one of its kind, offering bedside and classroom teaching through robotics and virtual reality.

Also an assistant professor of STEM education at the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando, Nickels spent years developing the academy that creates educational experiences tied to a patient's disease or condition.

"I do immersive virtual reality, developing interventions to teach mathematics in ways that are engaging and meaningful, and can also address some of their unique concerns," she said.

As a result, children with chronic and critical illnesses are exploring Mars, the Louvre in France, and Australia's Great Barrier Reef while learning sci-

ence, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects, literacy, and the humanities.

Nickels has explored King Tut's tomb in Egypt with a 10-year-old with bone cancer. Other chronically ill students have landed on asteroids, scaled Asia's Mount Everest and swam with sea turtles, practicing the breaststroke from a hospital bed and strengthening weakened muscles while learning.

On the day they're admitted, young patients are visited by PedsAcademy staff consisting of UCF doctoral students and pre-service teachers. Lessons are tailored to the children's areas of interest.

"If they're here, we're serving them," said Nickels, who has taught children with traumatic brain injuries, HIV/AIDS, and

heart defects. "Each child is unique in what their treatment plan looks like. It's precision education, the counterpart to precision medicine."

Children receive up to three hours of teaching a day, Monday through Friday. The year-round classes don't provide credit, but give the students a sense of normalcy and keep them from falling behind their peers.

The program is free, supported through private donors and foundations, including \$2.3 million from NASA. Using the space agency's robots, students work with math and science curricula that correlate with actual missions. Marine biology is also popular, with patients creating robotic crabs and sea turtles for a cybernautic zoo.

Norm Jeune III is Nemours' director of Patient and Family Centered Care. When he joined the hospital that opened in 2012, he noticed there was no school program. He was making progress with a school district when he met Nickels. He praises PedsAcademy, saying "it has

"It's precision education, the counterpart to precision medicine."

totally exceeded my expectations in every possible way. It has changed our hospital."

Physicians are acutely aware of how much a child needs schooling, he said, but it's a stressor for parents to figure out how to make it happen. Children also miss out on a social life when not in school. Having a classroom in the hospital lifts their spirits. "We're giving them back some piece of what they had before they were taken out of their school environment," Jeune said. "I think that helps the healing process."



NASA provided \$2.3 million so ill children can learn math and science by building and programming robots. A cybernautic zoo is also popular.

Virtual reality headsets and computers are becoming as common as water pitchers in patient rooms. In addition to bedside teaching, there's a hub of activity in what looks like an elementary classroom, except that students arrive in wheelchairs with IV poles.

"We have to lock it if we leave even for five minutes, because the kids will sneak in—even from other units. They

love having something to do," Nickels said. "We've had parents drive their kids here on days they're not scheduled to be seen. They want to be here."

Nemours is a 100-bed hospital, but also treats more than 1,000 children a day in outpatient clinics. Nickels is expanding the program to include them. "As we continue to grow, hopefully we can catch them all. We even teach siblings while they're here," Nickels said, noting they're a population that doesn't get a lot of attention.

Virtual reality can also be a powerful tool in terms of medicine, at times replacing sedation before a procedure. "It can be a distractor before a procedure a child might be anxious about," Nickels said. "We can also use it in physical therapy to get them to do things that are really uncomfortable. They're so willing to do it in virtual reality."

ISU Associate Professor of Mathematics Education Craig Cullen was Nickels' dissertation chair. They worked together on the NASA grant and collaborate on research. "I certainly would not be where I am or doing half the work that I do without Craig Cullen," Nickels said. "He's continued to be extremely supportive."

Cullen responds by crediting Nickels for her success. "She's really driven. She's a ferocious leader," he said. "I just happened to be the one standing near her when she was doing the work."

Cullen understands Nickels' vision and the need for PedsAcademy, as it's natural for families with seriously ill children to focus on healing. That deprives the child of learning experiences.

"A lot of good-intentioned people start pulling back from what's expected of kids in a hospital," he said. "Megan's vision is different, that they are still capable. Even if a child isn't going to survive to adulthood, they still need and deserve the opportunity to participate in science, technology, engineering, and mathematic experiences. That's part of being human. If you strip that away from them, they're being quarantined off from the world."

Nickels has another Illinois State educator in her life. She's married to Matthew Nickels, who earned a bachelor's degree in political science in 2004 and returned to get his middle school education degree in 2010. He is a civics and chemistry teacher at Florida Connections Academy, a virtual school based out of Tampa, Florida.

Nickels would like to see the PedsAcademy model spread across the country, as there are nearly 250 children's hospitals in the U.S. treating an average of 8,000 inpatients a year and 180,000 outpatients.

Nickels also hopes to change the perspective of educators in school districts, beginning with the student teachers she mentors through the academy. "If they take a job in a brick and mortar classroom, at least when a child comes into their classroom with a complex medical illness," she said, "they'll know not to send worksheets."



WATERS MOMENT

As the sun slowly rises across the horizon, heat emanates from the red earth as Catherine O'Reilly makes her way down a path on the outskirts of Kigoma, Tanzania. Schoolchildren run past, dressed in uniforms faded from too many washes and the dust that constantly sweeps through the air. Cresting a hill, O'Reilly sees the sparkling morning light catch the expansive water of Lake Tanganyika—a source of life and livelihood for tens of millions of people.

Photos by William Perry



HED

Scholar's studies on
lakes worldwide sound
environmental alarm

By Rachel Hatch

“These are not the people who are responsible for climate change, yet they’re the ones being affected by it.”

“It’s stunningly, stunningly beautiful,” said O’Reilly. The aquatic ecologist and associate professor of geology at Illinois State has been working with the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) for decades to study the lake, which spans 400 miles wide and dives a mile deep. “In the wet season, the lake stretches out flat like glass. You can’t see across to the other side, but you can see the clouds reflected perfectly. It is a beauty that cannot be described.”

Like many lakes around the globe, the life that teems in and around Lake Tanganyika is at risk. The impact of rising temperatures on the freshwater lake can be viewed in the increasingly sparse catches of local fishermen. They are not alone.

Climate change is robbing millions of people around the lake of food and livelihood as the fish population disappears. O’Reilly has been studying the phenomenon for three decades. In 2007, she was part of a team of scientists honored with a Nobel Peace Prize for sounding the alarm about the irreversible danger to freshwater ecosystems caused by increasing temperatures.

“It’s horrifying to see people being so affected by something that they didn’t cause,” O’Reilly said. “These are not the people who are responsible for climate change, yet they’re the ones being affected by it.”

Lake Tanganyika is the longest and second-oldest freshwa-

ter lake in the world, forming part of the borders of Tanzania, Burundi, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The TAFIRI lies along the shore of Kigoma, where O’Reilly first ventured while pursuing her doctorate in the 1990s. She returned with a research education grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to spend another five years at TAFIRI, working alongside students from the United States and Tanzania. “The one thing I didn’t want was to just plop ourselves down there, do our own work, and leave,” said O’Reilly. “The local scientists know the lake. They know the fishermen and the people. It’s amazing what you can find out when you work together.”

TAFIRI Director Ismael Aaron Kimirei has known O’Reilly since 2004, when they met while she was an instructor and he was a student at Lake Tanganyika. He credits O’Reilly with working in a spirit of mutual respect since she arrived in East Africa. “We both have the

urge to build the research capacity of not only TAFIRI staff, but other underprivileged researchers,” he said. “My lab is in better shape partly because of our collaboration, but most importantly from her initiative.” The two continue to collaborate on the Projections of Climate Change Effects on Lake Tanganyika project with Peter Staehr from the University of Aarhus in Denmark, as well as on several other international research projects.

When visiting Tanzania, O’Reilly and a local team go onto Lake Tanganyika to check the status of a massive buoy equipped with devices to measure lake temperatures. Data flows from the buoy moored to the bottom of the lake back to a facility on the shore where the numbers are processed and analyzed. The team tries to time the trips on the lake to avoid storms brought by the wet season and large waves stirred up by the dry season. “During the dry season, the wind is intense, and the waves can be many feet high,” O’Reilly said. “It’s actually a bit like Lake Superior or Lake Michigan in that it can be dangerous.”



PIONEERING STUDY

O'Reilly is known internationally as an expert in the field of freshwater ecology. She has garnered millions of dollars in research grants from the NSF, NASA, the Danish International Development Agency, the Nutrient Research and Education Council, and the Environmental Protection Agency. She recently helped lead a team that is predicting the loss of ice on nearly 350 lakes in the Northern Hemisphere that could impact more than 650 million people. "We're not talking about lakes getting a little warmer. We are talking about lake ice being gone in the winter," she said. "Our children and grandchildren would not see something we have taken for granted."

Her work has been highlighted in the *The New York Times*, BBC, *The Guardian*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Washington Post*, and *National Geographic*. A 2003 paper on Lake Tanganyika that was published in *Nature* helped earn O'Reilly a Nobel Peace Prize. She shared the award as one of the scientists on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "I like to say I have 1/2000th of one half of a Nobel Peace Prize," joked O'Reilly. She is one of four international leaders of the Global Lake Temperature Collaboration, which gathered one of the most extensive collections of data on freshwater lakes ever seen. The study, published in 2015 in *Geophysical Research Letters*, pulled in analyses of 235 freshwater lakes—more than half of the world's freshwater supply.

For the groundbreaking study, funded by NASA and the NSF, O'Reilly drew together 64 world-renowned scientists who shared up to 30 years' worth of data on lake temperatures. "When

people ask about the scope of the project, my mind slips back to the more than 4,000 emails we all exchanged," said O'Reilly. "Four thousand, eight hundred, and seventy-six, to be exact." Electronic conversations flew over the course of the five-year study, involving scholars from Denmark to New Zealand.

The emphasis on collaboration cemented the success of the project, noted co-leader Sapna Sharma, a research chair in global change biology at York University in Canada. "Catherine is exactly the type of researcher with whom

you want to work," she said. "She is an inclusive leader who brings everyone's voice to the work, keeps it moving forward, and takes the time to ensure the research is of the highest quality."

Sharma and O'Reilly are expanding their work examining freshwater to include which lakes might no longer freeze due to rising temperatures. "Warming lakes, in particular, have large ramifications for water quality, which is essential for human survival," said Sharma.

In other words: As goes the freshwater, so goes the human race.



Catherine O'Reilly works with a lab technician at the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute.

DANGER IN DEGREES

The shared data from the Global Lake Temperature Collaboration originated from satellite measurements and scientists on the ground. “Satellites can gather temperatures from large lakes in remote places of the world, and have been for the last 25 years. But they can’t find the small lakes,” said O’Reilly. “That’s when you need the people out doing the sampling.” O’Reilly turned to the scientists in the field, individuals who have collected data across the decades on smaller lakes. The results led to a discovery: The mean temperature of lakes worldwide is escalating quickly. Between 1985 and 2009, the study found lakes are warming an average of 0.61 degrees Fahrenheit (0.34 degrees Celsius) each decade.

A less-than-one-degree change in

took centuries is now taking a little over 10 years to achieve, or the geophysical equivalent of a blink of an eye. “We’re talking about an average number, which means some places are warming up much more than that. Those places are going to be seeing a lot of changes,” said O’Reilly.

For Lake Tanganyika, rising temperatures mean a simple shift: Fish are disappearing. The impact of that change is not so simple. TAFIRI estimates that more than 60 million people in the four countries bordering Lake Tanganyika rely on fish as their main source of protein and the lake itself for freshwater.

The surrounding population has been increasing around 4.5 percent over the last 15 years—twice Tanzania’s growth rate. “People are looking to the shorelines for fish—both for a job and

growth of a special algae that produces toxins. “It’s a group of algae called cyanobacteria or blue-green algae,” said O’Reilly. “They have little gas vesicles in them, so that keeps them up near the surface of the water, which is right where they want to be because that’s where the sunlight is. So they’re very good at floating and multiplying.” Some of those algae produce cyanotoxins, which can be harmful to people and other mammals. The study predicts a 5 percent growth of these toxic blooms if temperature growth remains the same.

There are no easy solutions to these problems. “You have these conversations with people, explaining how the lake is changing, warming up, and what that does. And then they’ll ask, ‘Well, what can we do about it?’” said O’Reilly. “And you kind of have to say, ‘Well, very little.



Left: Illinois State Associate Professor of Biology William Perry gets a closer look at one of the anchors for the buoy deployment on Lake Tanganyika. **Center:** O’Reilly speaks with Ismael Aaron Kimirei and Peter Staehr. **Right:** TAFIRI members check the buoy gathering temperature measurements in Lake Tanganyika.

temperature doesn’t sound like much. For the planet, however, a one-degree change in the average temperature is extraordinary. When it comes to warming of lake temperatures, what once

for sustenance—exactly at a time when climate change is robbing fish from the lake,” said O’Reilly.

Fish get a double whammy as warming temperatures also spur the

Because you alone can’t fix this problem.”

She believes an adaptive fisheries management program would help, but any large-scale efforts are hindered by international borders. “There are

four countries involved when it comes to Lake Tanganyika,” said O’Reilly. “It would take a lot of political will to manage. But something has to be done or the fish population will collapse, and there will be lots and lots of hungry people out there. And hunger can lead to unrest.”

CLOSER TO HOME

Thousands of miles from the African lakeshore, O’Reilly is employing the same drive to bring disparate voices together to help improve water quality in Central Illinois. For several years O’Reilly, Associate Professor of Biology William Perry, and, Professor of Geology Eric Peterson have worked with the



City of Bloomington to install water-monitoring stations at Six-Mile Creek and Money Creek, tributaries that flow directly into the reservoirs that supply the city’s water.

The systems were the latest effort in an ongoing collaboration between

the city and the University to monitor and improve water quality in the area. “We’re working together to understand how to change land management in a sustainable fashion within agriculture-intensive areas,” said Perry.

The scientists speak with Central Illinois farmers about cover crops, which are grown to enrich the soil, to protect it from erosion, and to prevent the leeching of fertilizer and nitrogen into waterways. “We approached working with farmers differently,” O’Reilly said. “In a lot of cover crop projects done by scientists, they want to control everything because ... well ... they are scientists.” O’Reilly noted project organizers tend to dictate to farmers the timing of planting and watering, as well as the amount of fertilizer used. “Our project was much more saying to farmers, ‘Do whatever you would normally do, plus add a cover crop in the fall.’”

The approach mirrors the methods she developed since her early days at Lake Tanganyika. “Farmers know their land. They have expertise in understanding how the land will react,” said O’Reilly. “Plus, it just works better when people work together.”

O’Reilly is also among a group of faculty establishing a Center for Sustainable Water Future at Illinois State. The center will encourage long-term water solutions through academic research, and teaching and learning opportunities from across campus disciplines.

For O’Reilly, no matter where the water lies, the impact is the same. Freshwater is essential for human life, and she sees the chal-

lenges that climate change presents to freshwater lakes as a worldwide danger. “There’s a whole series of lakes out there, and they’re all going to be changing,” she said. “We need to prepare for that.”

Reprinted from Redbird Scholar, Spring 2019



Catherine O’Reilly is also spearheading a project that is helping the next generation of scientists become comfortable with working with big data.

She is serving as the principal investigator for a \$2 million National Science Foundation grant to fund a series of classroom modules for undergraduate students in biology, geology, and environmental science.

The five-year initiative, known as Project EDDIE (Environmental Data-Driven Inquiry and Exploration), will involve faculty at Illinois State, Carleton College, University of Arizona, and Queens College-City University of New York. It is designed to help the students use large data sets.



PATH TO POWER

WOMEN RISE
IN POLITICS 100 YEARS
AFTER SUFFRAGE

BY TOM KERTSCHER

MICHELLE BUCKWALTER-SCHURMAN '92 GREW UP IN A FAMILY WHERE WOMEN RAN SMALL BUSINESSES. SO IT STRUCK HER, TO PUT IT MILDLY, AS "VERY ODD" WHEN SHE LEARNED AS AN ADOLESCENT THAT WOMEN NOT THAT LONG AGO DIDN'T HAVE VOTING PRIVILEGES.

Buckwalter-Schurman has worked for more than a decade to get women elected to office. She notes with satisfaction how the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, finally became ratified.

The youngest member of the Tennessee House of Representatives supported the change because his mother had asked him to "be a good boy" and vote yes.

A political science graduate, Buckwalter-Schurman is a practicing attorney in Morrison. She was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1995, and now handles divorce, paternity, adoption and guardianship cases.

At the same time, she has served as first vice president of the National Federation of Republican Women since January 2018.

The organization recruits and supports women to run for office as a Republican candidate. She was previously a two-term president of the Illinois Federation of Republican Women, serving from 2012 to 2016.

"I felt really strongly that I'd finally found a place where there were intelligent women who knew the issues—and were willing to listen to the other side," she said,

"Right now, the way politics is, it seems like there are a lot of people not listening. I think maybe those in office are acting as though we're not listening. But at the base, I have really good friends who are heavy, strong Democrats. When we sit down and have a conversation, we have a lot in common. We have a lot of things we agree on."

Such bipartisan partnerships are just one positive Buckwalter-Schurman identifies in the world of politics today—100 years since passage of the 19th Amendment by Congress.

It was approved in the House in May 1919, and by the Senate one month later. The centennial of the amendment being made law comes in November 2020.

Women have gone on to do much more than just vote in the past century, taking leadership roles across the country. A record number of females were elected to Congress in 2018 and,

largely because of that, a record number of women are now serving in Congress. Moreover, the 2018 elections resulted in a record number of women serving in state legislatures across the country.

At the same time, it took nearly 100 years for a woman to be elected Speaker of the House—with Nancy Pelosi taking the position in 2019—and female presidential candidates have not won election.

That fact does not discourage Buckwalter-Schurman from encouraging women to step to the forefront in the political world.

Her own leadership desire and skills were honed while at Illinois State. She was a co-founder of the Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity at the University.

She credits ISU for providing a "great blend of being able to learn the academics, but get a real-life exposure to it too." She explains her ability to move up the ranks in the Federation of Republican Women is partly due to being politely candid.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO AGREE WITH ANOTHER WOMAN'S DECISIONS COMPLETELY, BUT IF YOU BELIEVE IN 80 PERCENT, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH. LET'S FOSTER HER LEADERSHIP SKILLS. LET'S HELP HER."



"I'm never afraid to tell somebody my opinion, but not in an insulting way toward them. That can be somewhat unusual for women. Sometimes we sugar-coat things, or don't say things as directly as they need to be said. What people have told me is they feel a very genuineness to me," said Buckwalter-Schurman, who is motivated "to take care of business that needs to be done."

In terms of her work getting women elected, Buckwalter-Schurman is proud-est of National Federation of Republican Women "strike forces" that work for GOP candidates in competitive races around the country.

"We can look at those counties in which we walked precincts, we had rallies, and see that those numbers turn to our candidates' favor," she said.

As for progress women have made since gaining the right to vote, Buckwalter-Schurman cited the U.S. Supreme Court having three female justices, and the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee as evidence of growing influence.

"It was important for women that Hillary Clinton got the nomination," she said. "I didn't see her as the right person, but I think that helped women. Certainly we can't ignore that just because we're Republicans. That was important."

Even with several females running for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination, Buckwalter-Schurman said more needs to be done to get women in both parties to seek public office.

"Men get up in the morning and look in the mirror and say, 'I think I'm

going to be president.' A woman has to be asked multiple times to run," she said.

"But we're getting away from that, and we're also doing a good job of other women saying to women 'You are qualified; not only should you run, but I will support you.'

"Women need to continue to encourage each other and try not to be competitive with each other. Women need to straighten each other's crown without telling them it was crooked," she added. "Just continue to feel a sisterhood. You don't have to agree with another woman's decisions completely, but if you believe in 80 percent, that's good enough. Let's foster her leadership skills. Let's help her."



IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR WOMEN THAT HILLARY CLINTON GOT THE NOMINATION. I THINK THAT HELPED WOMEN.



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Alumni royalty

Redbirds couple chosen as Homecoming queen, king

A simple meal in Fell Hall's dining center turned into 52 years of companionship, family, and love for this year's Homecoming alumni king and queen. They are Victor '68, M.A. '70, and Carol (Miller) Palomino '67, M.S. '70.

The lovebirds met in 1965 through Carol's roommate, who played in the marching band with Victor. Band members often gathered for dinner, and Carol would join the group. That started a strong friendship between the two. Victor fell for Carol's smile by 1966, and asked her to the Fell Hall Christmas Dance.

From that point on, they spent time at The Cage, strolled through downtown

Bloomington, and shared a love of music. Carol sang in a choir that Victor directed. She graduated in 1967 with a degree in special education. That same year Victor proposed, and the couple married in September.

Carol admits she found Victor's last name silly when she first met him. Now 52 years later, they can't imagine not sharing their lives as spouses. During those decades, Carol accepted a job as an elementary teacher in LeRoy, while Victor completed his student teaching and graduated with his Spanish degree in 1968.

Both accepted teaching offers in Chenoa, staying within the district for 25 years. Victor taught Spanish and English;

as well as directed plays, musicals, and the speech team. He went from instructor to principal and served as the superintendent prior to retiring in 2001. Carol stepped out of the classroom for several years to raise their children, returning to teach special education until retiring in 2003.

At the conclusion of that stage in their lives, the couple made their home in Normal. Victor was a full-time assistant professor for Heartland Community College, teaching Spanish until 2013. They now enjoy giving back as community volunteers. They attend many ISU events, including Homecoming, which was made especially meaningful this year given their role as royalty representing all alumni.

Alumni News

Alumni return to mark milestone anniversary

Graduates from the Class of 1970 will celebrate their 50th class reunion on May 1 and 2 during the annual Half Century Club event. A variety of activities will take place across campus, including a lunch, tours, and interactive experiences. An induction dinner will honor the class of 1970, along with the landmark classes of 1965, 1960, 1955 and 1950.

For additional information about the event, call (309) 438-2586 or email Stephanie Duquenne at saduque@IllinoisState.edu.

Physical education women's reunion set

Alumnae who graduated from the physical education program in the late 1960s to early 1970s are invited to a special reunion July 18 and 19.

Donna Dubbelde '70 and Tudy Schmied '70, M.S. '75, M.S. '90, are leading the planning efforts with a committee of fellow alumni. Events will take place on or near ISU. Call (309) 438-2586 for more information.

Spring celebrations for two campus groups

The Interdenominational Youth Choir will celebrate five decades on April 24-26. The weekend will highlight the impact the group has made to engage, inspire, and enrich its legacy. Events will include a meet and greet, a gala, and a concert performance.

In addition, Alternative Breaks will mark 20 years since it was first offered through Student Affairs as a way for students to volunteer during spring, winter, or summer breaks. Plans are being made for activities to note the milestone. Call (309) 438-2586 for more information about either group's events.



From the archives

Change is a constant at Illinois State. Alumni who returned for Homecoming were undoubtedly impressed by new construction alongside buildings that have been renovated. One spot on campus that has a radically different look is the footprint where Rambo House once stood. It was completed in 1939 and named after Jessie E. Rambo, head of the Home Economics Department. Senior students lived there nine months to train as home economics teachers. The building was demolished to create Redbird Plaza, which was dedicated in May of 2017. The gathering place was made possible through a gift from the estate of Jude Boyer, M.A. '68, who was a Student Affairs administrator for many years.



Acafellaz celebrates 20 years of harmony

by Jessica Xiques

The University's oldest active campus a cappella group got its start in 1999. It was then that Acafellaz formed as a registered student organization with 19 males. Six men with a passion for singing came together and began a musical legacy that continues to this day.

In celebration of the milestone, the group is producing its third album, which will be available on Spotify. All of the songs are recordings from live performances the vocalists love. Each uses an upbeat and comedic approach to connect with the audience.

"I like looking out and seeing the joy that we bring to people," said Acafellaz member Jake Hackl, a junior music edu-

cation major and music director for the tight-knit group.

For first-year Acafella Noah Sierer, that strong bond is exactly what he needed. "As a transfer student, I was worried about finding a good group of friends. As soon as I joined the Acafellaz, I felt so welcome."

Devin Jackson, a junior education major, became interested in joining the group while in high school. "A good friend of mine had been in it before I came to ISU, and a previous music instructor in my high school was also in Acafellaz," Jackson said. "That alone drew my interest."

While music is Acafellaz's passion, so is making a difference on campus.

Two years ago, the group created a \$500 scholarship to benefit a voice student in the School of Music. Two students have received the award.

"The Acafellaz should be remembered as a group that always puts on a fantastic show and stays true to themselves," Jackson said. "We are a hard-working group that still has a lot of fun. We are dedicated to what we do."

Acafellaz will host and compete in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella in the spring. The group is one of four a cappella groups on campus. Others are The Clef Hangers, On the Brink of Normal, and Secondary Dominance. All require auditions.

60s

Fred Koerner '62 retired as president of Koerner Consulting Inc.; resides with his wife, Karen, in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

William Bohren, M.S. '65, has been awarded the 2019 Ohio High School Football Coaches Association Lifetime Achievement Award; resides in Cortland, Ohio.

Tom Grites '66, M.S. '67, is the assistant provost at Stockton University; resides with his wife, Pamela, in Absecon, New Jersey.

Marvin Johnson '67, M.S. '70, retired after 45 years in the insurance industry; resides with his wife, Donna in Kildeer.

Dennis Kleidon, M.S. '67, is an artist whose paintings were exhibited in New York during the summer; art professor emeritus, University of Akron; co-founder and CEO of Kleidon & Associates; authored *Unleashing Your Imagination*; resides with his wife, Rose, in Akron, Ohio.

Bruce Boehm '68 is retired from Deere and Co.; resides with his wife, Mary, in Naples, Florida.

Patricia (Miragliotta) Hayes '68 retired from Growmark Inc. as a supply manager; resides with her husband, Robert, in Normal.

Diana (Corley) Schnapp '68, M.S. '70, retired from teaching as a professor in speech communication in Maryland, Illinois, and Kansas; resides with her husband, Frank, in Overland Park, Kansas.

Jerry Scranton '69, M.S. '83, is retired from the Illinois State Board of Education; resides with his wife, Lois, in Springfield and Bradenton, Florida.

70s

Henry Guenther '70, M.S. '71, is a retired State Farm Insurance Company executive; resides with his wife, Joan, in Bloomington.

Patrick Callahan '71, M.S. '73, is a clinical supervisor for Western Governors University and Culver-

Stockton College; president of the Knoxville CUSD 202 board; chair of the Western Division for the Illinois Association of School Boards; resides with his wife, Valerie, in Knoxville.

Gary Grace '71, M.S. '73, had a 48-year higher education career as a senior student affairs and enrollment officer; retired as founding executive director and dean of the University Center of Lake County; resides with his wife, Donna, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Cal Gramer '71 is retired as regional manager of Proctor Gamble and Walmart; resides with his wife, Christy, in Princeton.

Gary Huston '72 retired after 40 years as a State Farm Insurance Company agent in Illinois; resides with his wife, Connie, in Buckeye, Arizona.

Robert Reynolds '73 is owner and president of Robert R. Reynolds and Associates LLC, a governmental consulting firm; past inspector general for the state of Florida; past legislative affairs coordinator for Florida Department of Insurance; past Florida state representative; past police detective and recipient of Gold Star for bravery; resides in Tallahassee, Florida.

Dennis Tucker '73 is president of Cecil Bays and Associates; resides with his wife, Barbara, in Rancho Cucamonga, California.

Joseph Wagner '73, M.S. '78, taught industrial technology in Indian Prairie School District; now teaching part-time at Hampshire High School; resides with his wife, Claudette, in East Dundee.

Georganna Greanias '74 retired after teaching secondary math for 44 years; resides in Ottawa, Iowa.

Denis Medeiros '74, M.S. '76, is dean emeritus of the graduate school at University of Missouri-Kansas City, and professor emeritus of molecular biology and biochemistry; retired from Kansas State University as professor and head of human nutrition department; worked 36 years in higher education; resides with his wife, Susan, in Prairie Village, Kansas.

Pause for applause



At the ready

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. **Michelle (Tomal) Letcher '95** assumed the duties of Commander of the Joint Munitions Command and Joint Munitions and Lethality Life Cycle Management Command. Both are headquartered at the Rock Island Arsenal. Letcher oversees the provision of lethal military weapons and ammunition at the right place when needed and at the

right cost. Her work supports all U.S. service members, as well as all of America's allies. She began her 23-year military career in ISU's ROTC, while on campus completing a degree in social work. She has since served in Germany, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Korea.



Best of Braille teachers

The Braille Institute of America chose **Kateri Gullifor '10** as its 2019 Teacher of the Year for excellence in braille instruction. A graduate of ISU's Department of Special Education, she works in the Huntley Community School District with students across all grade levels who have a visual impairment. Gullifor's path into teaching goes back to junior high, when

she mentored a blind preschooler in a program called Little Angels. Now she excels at customizing educational plans for each student's specific need, and relishes helping children achieve independence and equity in their education. "I feel purposeful," she said. "I feel appreciated."



Master of musical theatre

Daren A. C. Carollo '99 is a College of Fine Arts acting alum who is now the co-executive director of 42nd Street Moon in San Francisco, California. The theatre is one of only four in the nation with a mission to present staged concert performances of classic Broadway musicals from the 1920s through the 1970s.

Doing so requires tireless work in finding lost scores and scripts, with the reward being the theatre is one of the first to be known as a musical revival company. Carollo has been a leader in the Bay Area arts scene for more than a decade.



Called out for caring

Mennonite College of Nursing graduate **Jessica Marshall '17** works at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn. Although still early in her career as a registered nurse, Marshall has proven she has the competency and compassion required to bring a healing touch. She was chosen by the hospital as its 2019

Nurse of the Year. One patient who nominated Marshall wrote that she "truly holistically cares about patients as human beings," standing up for them while pushing them forward with a combination of tough love and humor. Marshall was chosen for the honor from more than 2,000 nurses at the hospital.

How we met

Charlie Celenza '82 and Susan Goode '83 first met at a social function for their Dunn-Barton and Walker residence halls. She was a freshman and Charlie a sophomore. He worked around his shyness to meet with her again.

"I would strategically hang out at our cafeteria in hopes she would come down to eat. My plan was to gather up courage to ask her out," he said. The two began going to Capen movies and the Bowling and Billiards Center. Campus walks led to long conversations and the start of a lasting love.

Both worked in the kitchen of their dorm's cafeteria. Later Susan took a job at *The Vidette*, and Charlie volunteered at TV-10. Summers were spent five hours apart. Phone calls were expensive, so they relied on love letters to stay connected. Work schedules meant only one visit during the summer.

Charlie finished his communication degree one year before Susan graduated with a commercial art degree. They made a long-distance relationship work until their wedding in June of 1984. The two settled in Prospect Heights, where she worked as an artist at a printing agency. He produced and edited TV programs for a communications company.

The two have experienced plenty of change during their 35 years of marriage. There was the addition of three children, and Susan completed a master's degree to pursue her passion as a first-grade teacher. The two still enjoy time on campus together as they drive to visit family in Southern Illinois. "We stop and eat at Avanti's for our favorite gondola sandwiches that we first experienced 40 years ago," Charlie said.

Now residing in Itasca, they keep in touch with their college friends at an annual gathering. One special Redbird friendship Charlie still appreciates is that with his roommate Eric Eggleston. The two had a conversation the night before the event where Charlie met Susan. "I told him that it seemed as though I would never find the girl of my dreams. He said not to worry, as the Lord had already chosen her for me," said Charlie, who still believes he and Susan are indeed a match made in heaven.



Charlie and Susan Celenza enjoy visits to campus.

Melanie Muench-Day '74, M.S. '76, M.S. '02, retired after 22 years of teaching special education; resides in San Antonio, Florida.

George Schraut '74 retired from career in business; has coached track for 40 years; resides in Oxford, Michigan.

Mark Varner '74 is president of Regulatory Training and Compliance Associates, providing emergency response training; he and his wife, Karen, married in June and reside in Port Orange, Florida.

Mike Ackerman '75 is co-owner and president of DigiPay Solutions, a processing fraud and analytics company; resides with his wife, Sandy, in Los Angeles, California.

Nancy (Doney) Anderson '75, M.S. '76, is retired after working 40 years as a speech pathologist; resides in Normal.

Katherine (Curry) Derry '75, M.S. '82, is a licensed professional counselor with her own practice; resides in Rosenberg, Texas.

Peggy (Ofenloch) Kozak '75 is a branch manager and managing broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage; has two daughters and two grandsons; resides with her husband, Bob, in Lombard.

Kathy (Docherty) DiCialua '76, M.S. '78, retired from teaching middle school; is a real estate broker; resides with her husband, Guy, in Bloomington.

Charlie Hatfield '76 is an assistant producer for PBS station in Springfield, WSEC-TV; is chief of worldwide communications for the U2 Irish Fan Club, tied to Ireland rock band; resides in Springfield.

Susan (Rasfeld) Yackley '76 is president of the Yackley Group, working in property appraisals and estate liquidation; resides with her husband, Mark, in Los Angeles, California.

Les Peach '77 retired after 42 years as an insurance executive specializing in insurance for government

tal agencies; he and his wife, **Mary (Otto) '76**, reside in Montgomery.

Jan (Hallberg) Scocchera '77 is retired after 43 years in education; taught high school math; was middle school counselor; resides in Round Lake Heights.

Gregg Stockey '77, M.S. '79, is executive director of The Bridge Youth and Family Services of Palatine; with the organization 25 years; board member for Illinois Collaboration on Youth; resides in Ingleside.

Deborah (Davis) Yates '77, M.S. '82, is a registered dietitian and nutritionist at Sarasota Senior Friendship Center; resides with her husband, Richard, in Sarasota, Florida.

Craig Beintema '78, '81, is a public health administrator in Stephenson County; resides with his wife, LuAnne, in Freeport.

Cheri (Seper) Childers '78 teaches second grade at Victor Elementary School; named the 2018-2019 Torrance Unified School District's Elementary Teacher of the Year;

resides with her husband, Jim, in Torrance, California.

Booker Suggs '78 is retired from the University of Illinois-Chicago; career was in higher education and administration; resides in Chicago.

Paul Tutt '78 is vice president of product management and business development with Devro Inc.; resides in Blythewood, South Carolina.

David Harden, Ph.D. '79, is a consultant for Lycor Networks Inc.; resides in Vista, California.

80s

Scott Campbell '80 retired after 34 years in sales and marketing at Ford Motor Co.; resides with his wife, Sally, in Plano, Texas.

Michael Jones '80 retired from St. Clair County Probation Department after 28 years; received the Michael Shaughnessy Superior Service Award; resides in Shiloh.

Laura (Krass) O'Shea '80 is a guest services ambassador with the Chicago Cubs; resides with her husband, Joseph, in Morton Grove.

James Wright '80 is an Illinois associate circuit judge in Cook County; resides in Chicago.

Jeff Zook '80 retired as corporate counsel from United Parcel Service Inc. after 31 years; resides with his wife, Teresa, in Canton, Georgia.

Sue Adams '81 is director of advancement for Memory Care Home Solutions; resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Paul Halvorson '81, MBA '82, is a wealth manager with Morgan Stanley; resides with his wife, Martha, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Joseph Kolar '82 is senior counsel with Romanucci & Blandin; named president of Bohemian Lawyer's Association of Chicago, where he resides.

Kelly (Born) Timlin '82 is a software developer at State Farm Insurance Company; resides in Monticello.

Amy Belice '83 is a self-employed graphic designer; past community college adjunct; worked on branding at the University of Iowa; Cedar Rapids Advertising Federation board member; resides with her husband, Richard, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Bryan Bentlin '83 is a lead inclusion specialist with Deloitte; resides in Chicago.

Michael Dunlap '83 is an associate vice president and controller at the University of Miami; resides with his wife, Tara, in Miami, Florida.

Victor Mensavage '83 is vice president of sales for OneShare Health; resides in Downers Grove.

James Moncher '83 plays the role of Santa at Santa's Workshop in North Pole, Colorado; resides with his wife, Danine, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Christine O'Reilly-Riordan '83 is vice president of community relations with the Chicago White Sox; resides with her husband, Greg, in Downers Grove.

Jami Simon, M.S. '83, is an actress; co-starred in TV pilot *Half Empty*

and short film *Shadow of Love*; resides in New York, New York.

Brian White '83 retired from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as manager of the Bureau of Land Compliance Unit; worked 30 years for the agency; resides in Chatham.

Jana (Mayberry) Goodwin '84 is a home program intervention coordinator with Danville District 118; resides with her husband, Mark, in Danville.

Gregory Cermak '85 is a NASA Solar System Ambassador; science writer, and speaker teaching Big History and sustainable development; resides in Portland, Oregon.

Marijo (Murphy) Clemons '85 is the senior business systems analyst and vice president at Cognitive Medical Systems; resides with her husband, Lonny, in San Diego, California.

Ruth (Maplethorpe) Johnson '85 retired from Dixon Public Schools after teaching band 33 years; resides with her husband, David, in Dixon and Ocoee, Florida.

Susan Kuhlmyer '85 retired after teaching elementary school instrumental and band music 33 years; is a church musician; resides in Lena.

Pat Rittenhouse '85 retired from teaching deaf children after 32 years; taught all grade levels in Arkansas and Tennessee schools for the deaf; reading specialist, also taught math, Spanish; her husband, Bob, taught in ISU's deaf education program for 10 years; couple resides in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Michael Sukow '85 is a digital marketing manager for Accenture; resides with his wife, Heather, in Cary.

Linda (Levinson) Goldman '86 is an event manager for Leapin Lizards Events; resides in Waukegan.

Christopher Janicak, M.S. '86, is a professor of safety sciences at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania; resides with his wife, Nancy, in Export, Pennsylvania.

Liesa Morreau-Scholl '86 retired after 33 years as a special education

teacher; her husband, Rick '78, M.S. '83, is retired after teaching adapted physical education for 35 years; couple resides in Decatur.

Kristen (Emmert) Shaner '86 is a communications consultant with Caterpillar Inc.; works on corporate and dealer identity; resides with her husband, Bill, in Morton.

Stephen Yaness '86, M.A. '89, retired as a professor of music history at Illinois Wesleyan University; resides with his wife, Hong, in Bloomington.



Forever friends

Decades have passed since seven young ladies met during their freshman and sophomore years. They lived in Hamilton and Dunn-Barton halls, creating over four years a friendship that carried them through graduation and beyond. A reunion held last year in Arizona rekindled campus memories and strengthened their bond. Group members are, from left, Betty (Fehr) Colclasure '72, Eunice (Nottrott) Lingle '71, Ches-teen (Romaniak) Stern '71, Linda Janecek '72, Patricia (Stockton) Ledvina '72, Sue (Fehr) Ramsey '71, and Cheryl (Flanagan) Dolenc '71.

Joanne (Ferrone) Calarco '88 is an academic advisor at American Intercontinental University; resides with her husband, Joseph, in Johnsbury.

Jim Kerns, M.S. '88, is vice president of corporate risk management for Parsons Corporation; resides with his wife, Debra (Haselhuhn) '86, in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Laura (Borowy) Barberis '89 is an environmental scientist with Bayer; resides with her husband, John, in St. Jacob.

Sharon Trimble '89 is a social worker at Madison State Hospital; resides in Hanover, Indiana.

90s

Tom Galante '91 is pricing manager at SunSource Inc.; appointed to the Natural Resources Commission for the City of St. Charles, where he resides.

James Goodman '91 is an IT architect at Caterpillar Inc.; resides with his wife, Mindy, in Normal.

Steven Slayton '91 is a solutions manager at Dupont Community Credit Union; resides with his wife, Julie, in Fishersville, Virginia.

Chris Cosat '92 is an academic advisor and instructor at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, where he resides.

Glen Gribac '92 is project manager with Motorola Solutions; resides with his wife, Michelle, in Streamwood.

Krissie Harris '92, M.S. '93, is manager of Student Life and Campus Inclusion at Oakton Community College; resides in Evanston.

Ann Pachniak, M.S. '92, is a licensed athletic trainer at the Bone and Joint Clinic; resides in Wausau, Wisconsin.

Redbird legacy

An apartment choice made independently by Bob Mathes and Susan (Hawkins) as they completed undergraduate degrees in agriculture and chemistry respectively resulted in romance and creation of an ISU legacy family.

Susan lived a floor below Bob in units near horse stables on Vernon Avenue when the two met in 1983. Both graduated in 1984, and the two married in October that same year. She homeschooled the couple's seven children, including two sons adopted from Russia. Four followed their parents' lead and chose to study at Illinois State.

Debbie (Mathes) Fehr graduated in 2008 with an early childhood education degree, and in 2013 with a master's degree in reading. She teaches part-time and resides with her husband, Jason, in Monroe, Washington. They have four children.

Another daughter, Elizabeth (Mathes) Greenawalt '13 completed a degree in nutrition. She worked in a dentist's practice following graduation and now resides with her husband, Matt, in Monroe, Iowa.

The third family Redbird is Hannah '16. A political science major, she is the assistant director of Heartland Community College's testing center. She resides in Normal. The most recent graduate is David '19. He studied business administration and organizational leadership. He resides in Normal and works in claims at State Farm Insurance Company.

Bob is employed at State Farm as well. He is in facilities management and oversees building projects. Susan works part-time at Heartland in the testing center. The couple resides in Danvers, and is pleased to have at least some of the children close to home.

Already a tight-knit family, the Illinois State connection has strengthened the bond. "We all have had good experiences, and liked the school because it does have the small-college feel," Bob said. They made signs announcing all their graduation years that they carried into the May commencement ceremony—eager and proud to announce their generational campus connection.



Graduates from the Mathes family include Susan and Bob, front row, and in back, from left, Debbie, Elizabeth, Hannah, and David.

Rashawn (Matthews) Smith '92 is an executive assistant for the City of Killeen department of public works; resides with her husband, Jamal, in Killeen, Texas.

Sylvia Tucker '92 is an author of poetry and songs; resides in Kankakee.

William Landis '93 is retired after 22 years as an assistant superintendent for business and operations at McHenry School District 15; resides with his wife, Elaine, in St. Augustine, Florida.

Julie (Musselman) Oost '93, M.S. '97, is vice president of Peerless Network Inc.; resides with her husband, Kevin, and their triplet sons in Mokena.

Nicole (Benson) Thompson-Countryman '93 is an audit manager for

Coding Services Group, a health information company; resides with her husband, Wayne, in Camden-ton, Missouri.

Roberto Trujillo '93 is a trust fund administrator with UTU-MTA Trust Fund; resides in Irwindale, California.

Dwayne Walton '93 is a senior tax analyst with Phelix Consulting Group; resides in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

Lisa (Surratt) Warden '93 is senior audit manager with the Illinois Office of the Auditor General; daughter attends ISU; resides with her husband Jeff, in Beardstown.

Karla (Sample) Denzler '94 is a freelance artist; resides with her husband, Jeffrey, and two children in Argentina.

David Peterson '94, M.S. '98, retired from the Army Reserves after 24 years; is assistant vice provost at the University of Cincinnati; resides with his wife, Shawna, in Maineville, Ohio.

Daniel Ackley '95 founded a non-profit dedicated to helping people with visual impairments and sensory disabilities; resides in Washington.

Suzanna Henshon, M.S. '95, is a professional writer; authored three poetry books; *Teaching Empathy: Strategies for Building Emotional Intelligence in Today's Student* released this fall; resides in Naples, Florida.

Jennifer (Hatfield) Hetzel '95, M.S. '97, is an audiologist at New Liberty Hospital; resides with her hus-

band, Robert, and their two children in Gladstone, Missouri.

Albert Morrow '95 works in data strategy and governance for Walmart; resides with his wife, Nancy, in Bentonville, Arizona.

Jennine (Lilly) Smith '95 is an analytical chemist lead at Materion Advanced Chemicals; resides with her husband, James, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Zakeya Cartman '96 is the director of development for Little Black Pearl Art and Design Academy; resides in Chicago.

Morgan Collier '96 is vice president for advancement at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School; resides in Chicago.

Amanda Byassee Gott '96 is a judge in the First Judicial Circuit of Illinois; resides in Marion.

Angela Holmes '96 is vice president of human resources at National Railway Equipment Co.; resides with her partner, Tom, and her two children in Herrin.

Suzanne (Martin) Woodward '96 is director of development for the College of Education and Human Services, and the University Libraries at Western Illinois University; resides with her husband, Scott, in Mount Sterling.

Scott Gajda '97 is a Northwestern Mutual financial analyst; named one of top financial advisors in nation with induction into 2019 Forum Group; received the honor 13 times previously; resides in Irvine, California.

Toni (Gill) Pillow '97 is a senior systems analyst with Northrop Grumman; resides with her husband, Louis, in Wilberforce, Ohio.

Robert Bartnick '98, M.S. '00, is a senior managing consultant with IBM; works in Global Business Services; resides with his wife, Rachelle, in O'Fallon, Missouri.

Spiro Georgas '98 is a police lieutenant with the City of Chicago, where he resides.

Tamara (Klymkowych) Soutar '98 is a senior buyer with Cole-Parmer; resides in Lakemoor.

Steven Brandstedt '99 is an attorney with Litchfield Cavo LLP in Chicago; named an Emerging Lawyer in Illinois; adjunct professor at DePaul University College of Law; resides with his wife, Nicole, and their two children in Western Springs.

Andrea Dinaro '99, E.D. '14, is an associate professor of special education leadership at Concordia University; received the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education Trailblazer Award; resides in Chicago.

Matthew Lauritzen '99 is vice president at First State Bank in Bloomington, where he resides with his wife, Michelle.

Elizabeth Morrissey '99 is an assistant director at Northwestern University; resides in Chicago.

Kimberly Stallworth '99 works at Northern Illinois University; previously was supervising producer at WBBM-TV; nominated for many

Regional Emmy Awards, winning for best newscast; resides in Sycamore.

John Tovar '99, M.F.A. '18, is an assistant professor in ISU's College of Fine Arts; nominated for a Jeff Award for fight choreography for *The Girl in the Red Corner*, performed at Broken Nose; resides in Muncie, Indiana.

00s

Kara (Hart) Haas '00, M.S. '02, is managing consultant and marketing/regulatory director for SiteSee Powered by Ramboll; service uses artificial intelligence to reduce risks in mine closure; resides with her husband, Joseph, in Wildwood, Missouri.

Melissa Paoni, Ph.D. '00, is a clinical psychologist; owns Springfield Psychological Center; resides with her husband, Michael, in Springfield.

Carrie (Long) Pierson '00 is senior director of the Center for Academic and Professional Performance at Millikin University; resides in Mount Zion.

Jennifer Durchholz '01 co-owns Move, a Pilates and yoga business; program manager at Google; resides in Santa Clara, California.

Nicole (McDonald) Martinez '01 is a psychotherapist and advanced certified autism specialist at Centennial Counseling Center; resides with her husband, Peter, in Plano.

Lynn (Braschler) Yates '01 teaches theater and fine arts at Trinity Lutheran School in Indiana; named A Teacher You Want to Know by *Northwest Indiana Times*; resides with her husband, Eric, in Crown Point, Indiana.

Tiffany Askew '02 is an ombudsman for the Illinois Department on Aging; resides in Aurora.

Jessica Hurt '02 is an assistant principal for curriculum and instruction at Hinsdale Central High School; resides with her husband, James Milkert, in Downers Grove.

Amanda (Troy) Jones '02 is vice president of sales at *The Panta-*

graph; resides with her husband, Troy, in Bloomington.

Ryan Lynch '02 is a regional manager with Walsh Construction; resides with his wife, Jessica, in Bloomingdale.

Lindsey (Glover) Pinard '02 is the chief of patient services with the Department of Veterans Affairs; resides with her husband, Karl, in Gainesville, Florida.

Kelly (Bulleri) Romano '02 completed a master's degree at Northern Illinois University; certified teacher of the blind and visually impaired; certified orientation and mobility specialist; works for MSD Warren Township Schools; resides with her husband, Dave, and their two children in Carmel, Indiana.

Tracy (Vires) Strelak '02 teaches elementary students music in Warren Township; resides with her husband, Jon, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Rebecca Brtva '03, '07, is a regional chemistry manager with Mid America Clinical Laboratories; resides with her spouse, Daphne Gillespie, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Daniel Engle '03 is an engineering assistant with Masters Consulting LLC; resides in Austin, Texas.

Jamie Hines '03, M.S. '06, is the director of operations at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, where she resides.

David Hodge '03 is the football video director with Arizona State University; resides in Chandler, Arizona.

Stacy Kelley '03 is a lead grant writer with Orlando Science Center; resides with her husband, Christopher, in Orlando, Florida.

Dena (Chess) Schlunz '04 is the assistant director of admissions and records at Valencia College; resides with her husband, Eric, in Orlando, Florida.

Rashila (Grady) Smith '04 works in bus operations for the Chicago Transit Authority; resides with her husband, Jatone, and twin daughters in Chicago.



Roaming Redbirds

Sisters Yvonne and Karen Williams met Learnna Brewer-Baker while the three were attending Illinois State in the late 1960s and early 1970s. They all became educators in the Chicago Public Schools and through their work, formed a friendship with alumna Marilyn Stewart. Now retired, the group enjoys travel. They visited London, Paris, and Amsterdam during the summer. They are, from left, Yvonne Sonia Williams '69 of Richton Park, Learnna (Ryan) Brewer-Baker '70 of Chicago, Karen D. Williams '72 of Calumet City, and Marilyn Stewart '73 of Matteson.

Paul Stock, M.A. '04, is an associate professor of sociology and the environmental studies program at the University of Kansas; authored the book *New Farmers 2014/2018*; resides in Lawrence, Kansas.

Crista (Dusek) Altergott '05 is a client service manager with Promo-Works; resides in Mount Prospect.

Anthony Bolton '05, M.S. '08, is a senior analyst with the Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability; resides with his wife, Amy, in Athens.

Lindsay (Payton) Connor '05, M.S. '16, is a family nurse practitioner at OSF Ft. Jesse Family Medicine; resides in Normal.

Kiana Jackson '05 is an area productivity manager for Hyatt Hotels and Resorts; resides in Sherman Oaks, California.

Austin Newcomb '05 owns City Publication Chicago, Hudson Lighting, and Purple Pig Marketing Group; resides with his wife, Ashley, and their five adopted children in Geneva.

Shannon (Miller) Peters '05, M.A. '07, is a Spanish instructor at University School of Milwaukee; resides

with her husband, Eric, in Germantown, Wisconsin.

Enrique Rebolledo '05, M.A. '07, is associate director at the YMCA at Virginia Tech; resides with his wife, Lizette, in Blacksburg, Virginia.

David Sollish, M.S. '05, is director of the BFA musical theatre program at Anderson University/South Carolina School of the Arts; resides with his wife, Kelsey, in Anderson, South Carolina.

Chris Wych '05 is the properties supervisor for the Northwestern University Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts; resides in Wheeling.

Jennifer (Berger) Hartman '06 is a research lab engineer at Northwestern University; resides in Chicago.

Ellen (Beresheim) Magee '06 teaches second grade in East Maine School District 63; resides with her husband, Christopher, in Arlington Heights.

Eric Summers, M.S. '06, completed a juris doctorate at Chicago-Kent College of Law; works as assistant state's attorney in Peoria County; resides in Peoria.

Nicole Turner '06 is an associate director of manufacturing quality at AveXis; resides in Deerfield.

Joseph Burke '07 is a national sales manager with Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.; resides with his wife, Kellie, in Brunswick, Ohio.

Kyle Bush '07 is an education technology specialist for Community High School District 117; resides with his wife, Katie, in Mundelein.

Amanda (Stewart) Cavanaugh '07 teaches English at Lincoln-Way High School; resides with her husband, Brandon, in Frankfort.

Christine (Taylor) Fehring '07, M.S. '09, is a speech therapist and supervisor at Bird-Kern-Dalmia and Associates; resides in Sunnyvale, California.

Meghan (Adams) Kerr '07 is assistant principal for curriculum and instruction at Yorkville Middle School; resides with her husband, Ryan, in Montgomery.

Shawn Koca '07 is an associate director with Cumming Construction Management; resides with his wife, Jennifer, in San Diego, California.

Heather (Looney) Morris '07, M.S. '09, earned a doctorate in social and behavioral health from Virginia Commonwealth University; faculty and associate director for Population Research at the University of Florida; resides with her husband, Andrew, in Gainesville, Florida.

Amber Servey-Dorman '07 is an accessibility coordinator at Columbia College; completing a master's degree in health administration; resides in Columbia, Missouri.

Chandler Vandenberg '07 is a director of development for the Cockrell School of Engineering at the University of Texas-Austin; resides in Pflugerville, Texas.

Jonathan Hamby '08 is director of rebate accounting at Express Scripts; he and his wife, Julie, have twins and reside in Edwardsville.

Kyle Rokicki '08 co-owns Illinois Lube Group Inc. in Champaign; resides with his wife, Karen, and their son in Tolono.

Kevin Trusty '08 is a digital content manager for Floor Covering Asso-

ciates Inc.; freelance writer and baseball historian; resides in Joliet.

Charliese Agnew '09 is an assistant director of communications at Evanston Township High School; resides in Chicago.

Jennifer (Poduch) Albro '09, '11, and her husband, Bryan, are parents to a son, Simon; born March 2019; resides in Bloomington.

Megan (Uher) Fanthorpe '09 is a property claims adjuster for Chubb Insurance; resides in Yorkville.

Eric Green '09 is safety manager at Clark Construction; resides in Chicago.

Frances Heine '09 is director of domestic fulfillment and global logistics at Maui Jim Sunglasses; resides with her husband, Daniel, in Peoria.

Jeff Kmiec '09 was nominated for a Jeff Award for scenic design in the production of *The Gentleman Caller* performed at the Raven; resides in Chicago.

10s

Tim Baldwin '10 is a strategic planner with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security; resides with his wife, Micayla, in Peoria, Arizona.

Seth Isaacson '10, M.S. '12, is a researcher and describer at Rock Island Auction Company; resides with his wife, Lauren, in Lynn Center.

Daniel Liddle '10 is an English professor at Western Kentucky University; resides in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Stacey (Turner) Block '11 directs the orchestra for WSD 101; resides with her husband, Brian, in Des Plaines.

Allyson (Fuiten) Bradley '11 is a consultant with the Illinois State Board of Education; resides with her husband, Grant, in Springfield.

John Caldwell '11 was named the 2019 Employee of the Year by the Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District; teaches in the fire science department at College of DuPage; resides in Naperville.



"Finer Niners"

It didn't take long for the ladies living on the ninth floor of Whitten Hall in 1967 to coin a nickname for themselves. The friendship formed by the "Finer Niners" is still strong more than 50 years later. Six gathered for a reunion in Maine during the summer. They are, from left, Linda (Goldman) Hoxsey '72, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Margaret (Praxl) Bahner '72, Northport, Maine; Carol (Manser) Wright '72, Cincinnati, Ohio; Bonnie (Johnson) Wood '71, Lake Forest, California; Wendy (Sandelin) Borke '71, Elmhurst; and Carol (Beyer) Morgan '71, Normal.

Colin Daly '11 is an environmental project manager with TransCanada Pipeline; resides in Chicago.

Nicholas Fotopoulos '11 is a teacher and head coach of the girls' basketball team at Carl Sandburg High School; his wife, **Gabrielle '11**, teaches at the school; they are parents to Elias, born March 2019; reside in Frankfort.

Edward Kurpieski Jr. '11 is a senior account executive with Service Express; resides in Palatine.

Alyse (LeDuc) Platts '11 is a consultant with Fox Valley United Way; resides with her husband, Nick, in Plainfield.

Kerry Shanahan '11 teaches third grade at Nord Anglia Education, an American school in Costa Rica.

Amy Adamow '12, M.S. '19, is assistant principal at Richwoods High School in Peoria; 2017-2018 Kiwanis Teacher of the Year; volleyball coach; resides in Peoria.

Adrienne Anderson '12 completed a juris doctorate at Michigan State University; serves as a deputy district attorney for Multnomah County; resides in Portland, Oregon.

Eric Barbour '12 is a senior account manager with Taylor Communications; resides in Normal.

Amanda (Inman) Beemsterboer '12 is the director of recruiting for Mediaocean; she and her husband, **Tim '12**, reside in Tinley Park.

Alyssa Curran, M.S. '12, is a program officer with the Missouri Foundation for Health; resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Aric Faulkner '12, M.S. '15, is director for TRiO Student Support Services at Illinois Central College; resides in Peoria.

Jon Gaeta '12 is a government affairs professional with Central Garden and Pet; former legislative liaison for Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner; resides with his wife, Andrea, in Pingree Grove.

Kelsi Grubisich '12 is the civic engagement and leadership coordinator at the University of Wisconsin in La Crosse, where she resides.

Matt Horton '12 is an executive chef at ISU; resides in Normal.

Ryan Lindemann '12 is an intelligence analyst with the FBI in Chicago; resides with his wife, Alyssa, in Plainfield.

Bennett Morris '12, MBA '17, is digital coordinator of the Next Door financial literacy community center in Chicago, run by State Farm Insurance Company; chairs the Libertarian Party of Illinois; resides in Chicago.

Josh Weaver '12 is an underwriting specialist with Sentry Insurance; resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Kathleen (Egan) Escalona '13 earned a doctorate of nursing practice and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner degree from Rush University; passed ANCC boards; works for PCC Community Wellness; she and her husband, Kyle, have two daughters and reside in Chicago.

Alexander Johnson '13 is a visitor services information assistant with the U.S. Forest Service; works in Hoosier National Forest; resides with his wife, Kelsey, in Owensboro, Kentucky.

David Koch '13 is a mortgage loan originator with Two Roads Lending; resides with his wife, Allison, in Geneva.

Kristin (Cooley) Lancaster '13 teaches chemistry and forensics at Zionsville High School; her husband, **Matthew '13**, is a dentist; resides in Carmel, Indiana.

Amy (Saros) McConnell '13 is a high school health sciences teacher in South Milwaukee School District; resides with her husband, Daniel, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Amy (Putz) Melin '13 teaches second grade in Indian Prairie School District 204; resides with her husband, Christopher, in Elburn.

Meagan Polidoro '13 is a treasury management associate at First American Bank; resides in Glendale Heights.

Karyn Regner '13 is the director of aquatics and safety for Great Wolf Lodge; substitute teacher in Colorado Springs, where she resides.



Barton Hall bond

When seven students met on the second floor of Barton Hall, none expected to form a friendship that would endure decades beyond graduation. The bond strengthened when the ladies moved into a house on Coolidge Drive their sophomore year. In the nearly 40 years since living there, the group has shared weddings, children and now grandchildren. They are, *from left*, Jodi (Schroeder) Coveny '81, Warrenville; Christine O'Reilly '83, Downers Grove; Christine (Deimer) Romac '83, Shorewood; Mimi (Ryan) Turnbull, Naperville; Beckie (Witort) Saul '81, Lisle; Jill Gilfillan '81, Saint Paul, Minnesota; and Jayne (Hoffmeyer) Claire '82, Morris.

Andrew Torbert '13 directs the band at Valley Vista High School; resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Shannon Weick '13 is a veterinary research specialist at the University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Lab; resides in Savoy.

Elizabeth Hayes, Ed.D. '14, is a principal consultant for the Illinois Board of Education's special education services division; resides in Chicago.

Michael McGovern '14, M.S. '19, is assistant principal at Glen Oak Middle School in Peoria, where he resides.

Amy (Thieme) Nussbaum '14 handles patient accounts and provides office support for Heart of Illinois OB/GYN; resides with her husband, Reid, in Normal.

Tatiana Robinson '14 is a forensic analytical chemist with the United States Drug Testing Laboratories Inc.; resides in Hazel Crest.

Gracie Weinzierl '14 is the consumer engagement manager at Illinois Farm Bureau; resides in Normal.

Robert Alberts '15 is the community director at Arizona State University; resides in Tempe, Arizona.

Amanda (Fisher) Boyd, M.S. '15, is a court research analyst with National Center for State Courts; resides with her husband, Shane, in Yorktown, Virginia.

Shaunda Brooks-Green '15 is a marketing coordinator with Innovation Arts and Entertainment; resides with her husband, Joseph, in Chicago.

Kaitlyn Elsen '15 is the employee and guest experience manager at Ascend Amphitheater; resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

Jessica (Connolly) Marks '15 is a medical laboratory scientist with Central DuPage Hospital; resides with her husband, Ryan, in Aurora.

Neal Phifer '15, M.S. '19, is a personal trainer at Christus Health; resides in Whitehouse, Texas.

Angel Pulido '15 is a registered nurse at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County; resides in Chicago.

Timothy Sullivan '15 teaches social studies at Thornton Fractional South High School; completing a master's in economics and entrepreneurship education at the University of Delaware; resides in Lansing.

Amy Wemhoener '15 is a recruiting specialist at Venmo (PayPal); resides in Chicago.

Crystal Williams, M.S. '15, is a GIS specialist for McLean County; resides with her husband, Bradley, in Normal.

Tyrianna Jones '16 is an academic advisor at Purdue University at West Lafayette; resides in Lafayette, Indiana.

Kelly Larson '16 is the office manager for Dupage Adjusters LLC; resides in Lisle.

Ashley Long '16 is a project manager with Allstate Insurance Co.; resides in Chicago.

Miranda Matheny '16 is a registered nurse at Memorial Medical Center; completing a doctorate in nursing at the University of Illinois-Chicago; resides in Springfield.

Sravya Polavarapu, M.S. '16, is a math content developer at GEX Inc.; resides in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Jake Sale '16, M.S. '19, is an assistant director of development at Valparaiso University in Indiana, where he resides.

Anita Alfano '17 is a law student at Western Michigan University Cooley Law School; resides in Tampa, Florida.

Clarissa Connell '17 is a registered nurse at Advocate Christ Medical Center; resides in Tinley Park.

Christine Dickerson, M.S. '17, is a campus area representative for Fellowship of Christian Athletes; resides in Costa Mesa, California.

Alyssa Dietz '17 is a certified veterinary technician with Bradley Animal Hospital; resides in New Lenox.

Kacey Garber '17 is a staff hydrogeologist II at PDC Technical Services Inc.; resides in Pekin.

Joe Hennigan '17 works in fan development for the Chicago Blackhawks; resides in Oak Lawn.

Noah Kirby '17 is a mass communication specialist with Samaritan Ministries; he and his wife, **Kristi (Grimm) '18**, reside in Bloomington.

Dillon Maher '17 is a communications coordinator in the Office of Admissions at ISU; resides in Normal.

Cassandra Metz '17, '18, is a life sciences career trainee with the

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; resides in Springfield.

Katie Midlock '17 teaches fifth grade at Atwood Heights School District 125 on south side of Chicago; completing her master's in education at ISU; resides in Oak Lawn.

Zuzana Sulcova '17 teaches biology at Lindbergh High School; resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Melissa Fulkes '18 is a business analyst with JCPenny Corporation; resides in Dallas, Texas.

Daniel Gee '18 is an assistant account executive with the public relations agency FINN Partners; resides in Cary.

Kristen Landaal, M.S. '18, is a residence hall director at Milwaukee School of Engineering; resides in Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin.

Clayton Nigg '18 is an industrial technology teacher at Tri-Valley High School; resides in LeRoy.

Nicole Peck '18 is a nurse at Kindred Hospital; works with long-term, acute-care patients; resides in Yorkville.

Helena Presswood '18 is a substitute assistant teacher at Little Jewels Learning Center; resides in Normal.

Samantha Schulz '18 teaches science at Washington Community High School; resides in Bloomington.

Patrick Smith '18 is a construction project manager at the University of Central Florida; resides in Oviedo, Florida.

Matthew Weybright '18 is a laboratory scientist at Mayo Clinic; resides in Rochester, Minnesota.

Jenna Henske '19 is a talent development coordinator with Hanson Professional Services Inc., where she completed an internship; resides in Springfield.

Elizabeth Miller '19 is a member of the Peace Corps; completing a two-year assignment in Ghana, Africa.

Molly Velbeck '19 is an account manager with the Portland Trail Blazers; resides in Belvidere.

Military

James Ensign '65 is a U.S. Navy veteran who served in Vietnam; semi-retired attorney; resides in Normal.

Kerry Welker '75 is retired after 24 years active duty as an officer in the U.S. Air Force; worked as a civil service employee, government contractor, and music educator in Illinois public schools; resides with his wife, Sally, in Shiloh.

Robert Tobin '78, '79, was in the U.S. Army 30 years, retiring as Lt. Colonel; completed a doctorate in paleontology; wounded in combat in Iraq; evacuated and spent a year in Army and VA hospitals; resides with his wife, Martha, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Lt. Michael Miller '05 is the deputy public affairs officer for Naval Service Training Command at the Great Lakes Naval Station; U.S. Navy Reserve Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan; resides with his wife, Samantha, in Batavia.

Adam Bolliger '08 is an active duty Army officer promoted to Major; graduated from Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth; he and his wife, **Erin (Davidshofer) '09**, are stationed at Fort Irwin, California.

Cassie Lothery, M.S. '12, is a veterinarian with the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps; resides with her husband, Tim, in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Ida Crawford '16 is completing an MBA; on active duty with the U.S. Air Force in Japan.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Geraldine A. Greenlee, Kinesiology and Recreation; 2/19

Elmer A. Lemke, Psychology; 2/19
Sun San Lin, Student Health Services; 2/19

Marvin L. Luther, Physics; 2/19

Frederick J. Roberts, Politics and Government; 2/19



Remembering Willow Street

A group of 10 young women formed a lasting friendship when they lived together at 206 W. Willow Street while attending ISU. They called their home The Willow Inn. While it no longer stands in Normal, the bond between the ladies remains strong. Some of the group gathered in July. They are, from left, Carol Bernardi, Minonk; Mary Jo Cronin, Wauconda; Susann (Scavone) Gilbert, Chicago; Rosanne Amber "Rocky" Jones, Alsip; and Anna (Rossetti) Matern, Fort Meyers, Florida. All are 1981 graduates.

30s

Elouise M. (Fisher) Tolman '35;
1/15
Grace A. (Stogsdill) Streitmatter
'36; 4/14
Florence E. (Mason) Kennedy '38;
4/19
Elizabeth M. (Frey) Smith '38, '54,
M.S. '60; 1/19
Elda E. (Funk) Garrett '39; 3/16

40s

Margaret L. (Stover) Dady '41; 2/19
Marjorie E. (Berg) Mehlberg '41,
'67; 2/19
Nan E. (Sudbrink) Miller '41; 3/19
Marguerite L. (Fechter) Perry '43;
10/12
Hilda D. (DeHart) Scholler '43;
4/19
Henriette M. (Voigt) Whale '45;
2/19
Cherry E. (Jackson) Kingston '46;
3/19
June L. (Dalziel) Taveirne '46; 2/19
Marjorie A. (Osborn) Bryant '47;
M.S. '67; 4/19
Iris M. (McKinney) Gray '47; 2/19
Nita (Dawson) Cherry '48; 4/19
Richard J. Hegner '48; 2/14
Jean C. (Yoder) Lambert '48; 5/18
Verna J. (Pehlman) Purdue '48;
4/19
Mary A. (Reinhart) Council '49;
4/19
Charles M. Lagneaux '49; 4/19
Thomas O'Connell '49; 2/19
Richard W. Rockenbach '49; 4/19

50s

Alta B. (Crowdson) Brandt '51; 8/18
O. Delmar Davis '51; 3/19
Vilma R. (Martinus) Malmberg
'51; 10/18
Hugh C. Phipps Jr., M.S. '51; 10/14
Donald L. Toole '52; 3/19
Emma J. (Thompson) Carner '53;
4/19
E. Roger Etter '53, M.S. '56; 1/19
Wilma N. Gehrke '53; 2/19
Oleeta S. (Poole) McQueen '53;
1/19
Marianne L. (Demay) Mellen '53;
1/19

James R. Naylor '53; 1/19
Marion "Bud" M. Passini '53; 3/19
Harold O. Smith '53; 4/19
James "Ron" R. Beales '54, M.S.
'59; 4/19
Charles W. Dominic '54; 2/19
Alice J. (Duvall) Kahler '54; 11/18
Leona D. (Cave) Kreiser '54; 3/19
Ruth E. (Kuerth) Shaffer '54; 9/18
Janet L. (Householder) Woodall
'54; 4/19
Milton J. Kadlec Sr. '55; 3/19
Andrew L. Leake '55, M.S. '59; 3/19
Inger B. (Sandberg) Schaller '55;
3/19
Charles N. Waity '55; 4/19
Jeanette F. (Fawley) Baer '56; 2/19
Gene L. Foster '56; 11/17
Donna C. (Kuester) Lofgren '56;
4/19
Patricia A. (Grieser) Otto '56; 9/18
Donald S. Schroeder '56, M.S. '58;
3/19
E. Ray Wilson '56, M.S. '62; 1/19
Barbara A. (Hostettler) Beyer '57;
2/19
Joyce A. (Hoeger) Deany '57; 3/19
Colin B. Manahan V '57, M.S. '63;
1/19
Rose M. (Short) Reznicek '57; 1/19
Robert D. Richey '57; 12/16
Angelo T. Barney '58; 2/19
Helen A. (Gould) Boylan '58; 4/19
Raymond P. Feigerle '58; 12/09
Mary L. (Birdwell) Martinovic
'58; 4/18
John R. Ten Have, M.S. '59; 1/19
Donald B. Johannes '59, M.S. '59;
12/18
Ron Veselack '59, M.S. '69; 3/19

60s

Marilyn E. (Weith) Ballester '60;
1/19
Barbara J. (Hansen) Lamb '60;
12/18
Maurice Vance '60; 6/19
Janet E. (Rohlf) Guttschow '61;
1/19
Beverly A. (Boyer) Hadden '61;
4/19
Ronald E. Persche '61, M.S. '63;
2/19

Mary E. (Woolley) Reardon '61;
3/19
Caroline S. (Moore) Zickert '61;
1/19
Carol H. (Brueggeman) Downing
'62; 3/17
Linda M. (Bossert) Zimmer '62;
1/19
Rebecca (Reeder) Knouse '63; 3/13
Judith A. (Hill) Rand '63; 4/19
Marjorie (Jorstad) Anderson '64;
1/19
Kay F. (Ward) Burman '64; 1/19
Andrew S. Gainer '64; 3/19
Mary R. (Klickman) Buchheit '65;
2/19
Thomas P. Koontz '65; 1/19
James N. McCormick '65; 2/19
Paul Phillips Jr. '65, M.S. '70; 1/19
Wardell Vaughn '65; 4/19
Donald L. Winn, M.S. '65; 2/19
Virgil D. Ballard Jr. '66, M.S. '68;
3/11
C. David Claudon '66; 11/16
Eugenie S. (Whetzel) Kehoe '66;
8/18
Lorraine "Lorie" M. (Goodenough)
Kirker '66; 1/19
Betty J. (Daggitt) Neuman '66; 1/19
Larry L. Reed '66; 9/18
Julia A. (Hohulin) Slick '66; 1/19
Sandra S. (Marquiss) Thompson
'66; 1/19
Carolyn (Krueger) Viste '66; 6/19

Mary J. (McKeon) Flohr '67; 1/19
Marilyn M. (Wert) Kadlec '67;
1/18
Bradley E. Miller '67, M.S. '71; 3/19
Cathie L. (Brandt) Huston '68; 3/19
Stephen J. McNamara '68, M.S.
'70; 4/19
Jayne A. (Willis) Prater '68; 5/16
Margaret (Jackson) Sprague '68;
3/19
Antonia M. Atkinson '69; 3/19
Catherine L. Biggins '69; 8/17
Harry R. Bryant '69; 7/09
Alan J. Fay '69; 11/18
Lawrence G. Goodsell '69; 2/17
O. Gregory Johnson '69; 2/19
Helen M. Rasmussen '69; 2/19
Jill K. (Oleson) Rizzolo '69; 3/12

70s

Randal D. Cooksey, M.S. '70; 4/19
Robert G. Johnson, M.S. '70; 3/19
Ronald A. Kramme, M.S. '70; 6/19
Paula S. (Riney) Loftin '70; 4/19
Carolyn F. Supple '70; 12/18
Ruth C. (Dalrymple) Wieting, M.S.
'70; 1/19
Kathleen R. Bartolomucci '71; 4/19
Viola R. (Schulze) Beddingfield
'71; 1/19
Mary Ann (Schneider) Kunkel '71;
2/19
David J. Wassel '71; 12/18



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- 2) Email your news to **sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu**.
- 3) Mail your news to Class Notes, Illinois State University, Alumni Engagement, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100.

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Frances B. Boone, M.S. '72; 2/19

Henry J. Bratcher '72; 4/19

Velma (Smith) Doty '72, M.S. '81;
4/19

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Passing on a love of science

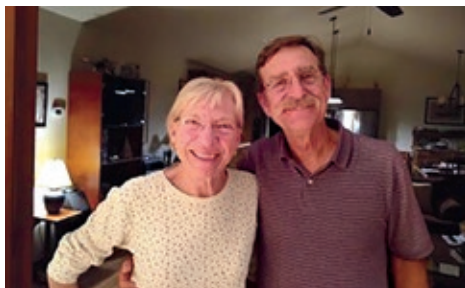
Sher '71 and Todd Rockway are passionate about encouraging students to embrace science. During Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State, the Rockways established the Sheryll (Renken) and Todd Rockway Endowed Scholarship in Biology, giving more than \$37,000 to support the fund. The scholarship assists ISU students majoring in biology or chemistry.

Sher and Todd met in 2001 through a mutual appreciation of science. Todd obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1983 from the University of Arizona in Tucson. Sher earned a Ph.D. in science education from the University of Iowa in 1993. They married in 2004 and after both retired—Sher in 2004 from teaching science in the Indian Prairie School District and Todd in 2012 from a chemistry management role at Abbott Laboratories—they settled in Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin.

A shared volunteer experience was the impetus for their gift to Illinois State. While working with disadvantaged youth through Waukegan to College, a community-based college preparatory program, the Rockways saw firsthand the barriers some students face when pursuing a college degree.

“We spent many Saturday mornings mentoring youth through Waukegan to College,” Todd said. “It was neat to see kids we’d worked with go to college and graduate.” The Rockways’ endowment is a resource for undergraduate students majoring in biology or chemistry who demonstrate academic achievement and/or financial need.

“We feel very blessed to be able to give back to Illinois State,” said Sher, who has been giving consistently to her alma mater since she graduated. Todd agrees, noting that it’s rewarding to encourage students to maintain an interest in science.



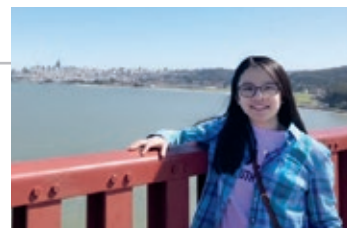
Scholarship recipient Elizabeth Garrelts, below, is grateful for support from the Rockways.

“In the future, this scholarship will help others to find their value, just like it helped me to find mine.”

“We wanted to communicate to students who love science that it’s okay to like science, it’s okay to be a chemistry person,” he said. “And if students who are interested in science can get a job doing what they love, their job will become a hobby.”

Chemistry major and biological science minor Elizabeth Garrelts received the scholarship in 2019. She knows first-hand how helpful the support of a fellow science lover can be.

“As a woman in chemistry with ambitions of attending medical school, receiving the scholarship helped me gain more confidence,” Garrelts said. “In the future, this scholarship will help others to find their value, just like it helped me to find mine.”



Donors like Sher and Todd Rockway bridge the gap between student access and student achievement. To support scholarships at Illinois State University, visit RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu.



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Celebrating diversity

A group of graduates, staff, and friends marched in Chicago's 50th annual Pride Parade during the summer as part of the Illinois State University LGBTQA Alumni Network contingent. Rainbow-themed outfits and flags filled the streets lined by thousands who gathered to show their support for the LGBTQA community, with chants of "I-S-U" heard as the University group passed observers.

